PRINCESS KNIGHT

part 2

Osamu Tezuka

[redacted]

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The adventure charges forward in the second half of Tezuka's beloved *Princess Knight!* The legendary Prince Sapphire continues her gender-bending quest, capturing the hearts of her readers as she goes.

Sapphire valiantly fights off Sir Nylon, Madame Hell is hell-bent on marriage, and a certain jealous goddess puts Prince Franz in her sights. Witches, wedding bells, magic and mayhem—all in a day's work for our beloved heroine. But will all live happily ever after?

Praise for the Author

"It's a mark of his artistic singularity that almost 20 years after his death, we are still playing catch-up with his achievements." —*Newsweek*

"In Tezuka's world, the exquisite collapses into the goofy in a New York minute, the goofy into the melodramatic, the melodramatic into the brutal, and the brutal into the sincerely touching. The surprising result is a work wholly unique and downright fun." —*Time Out New York*

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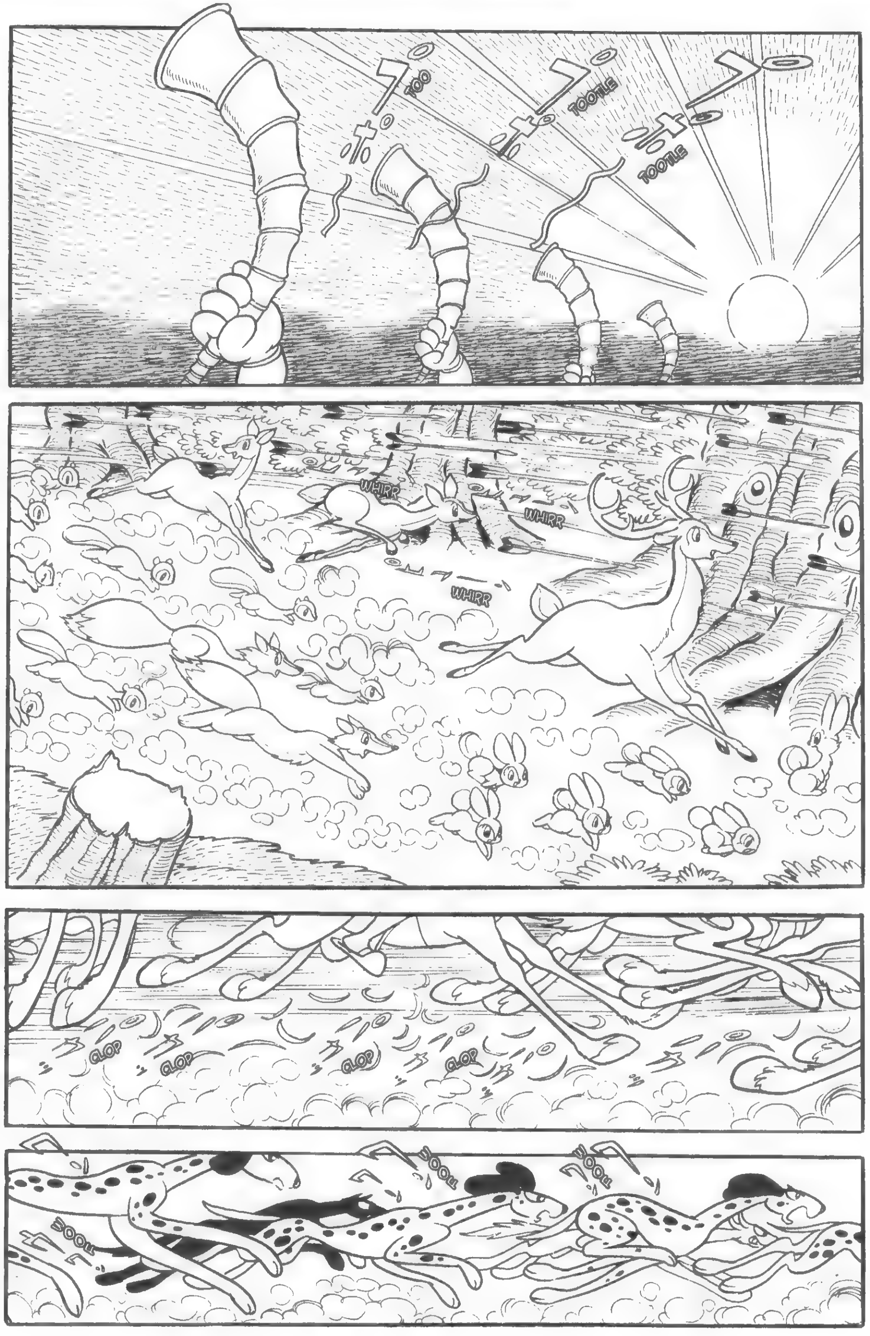
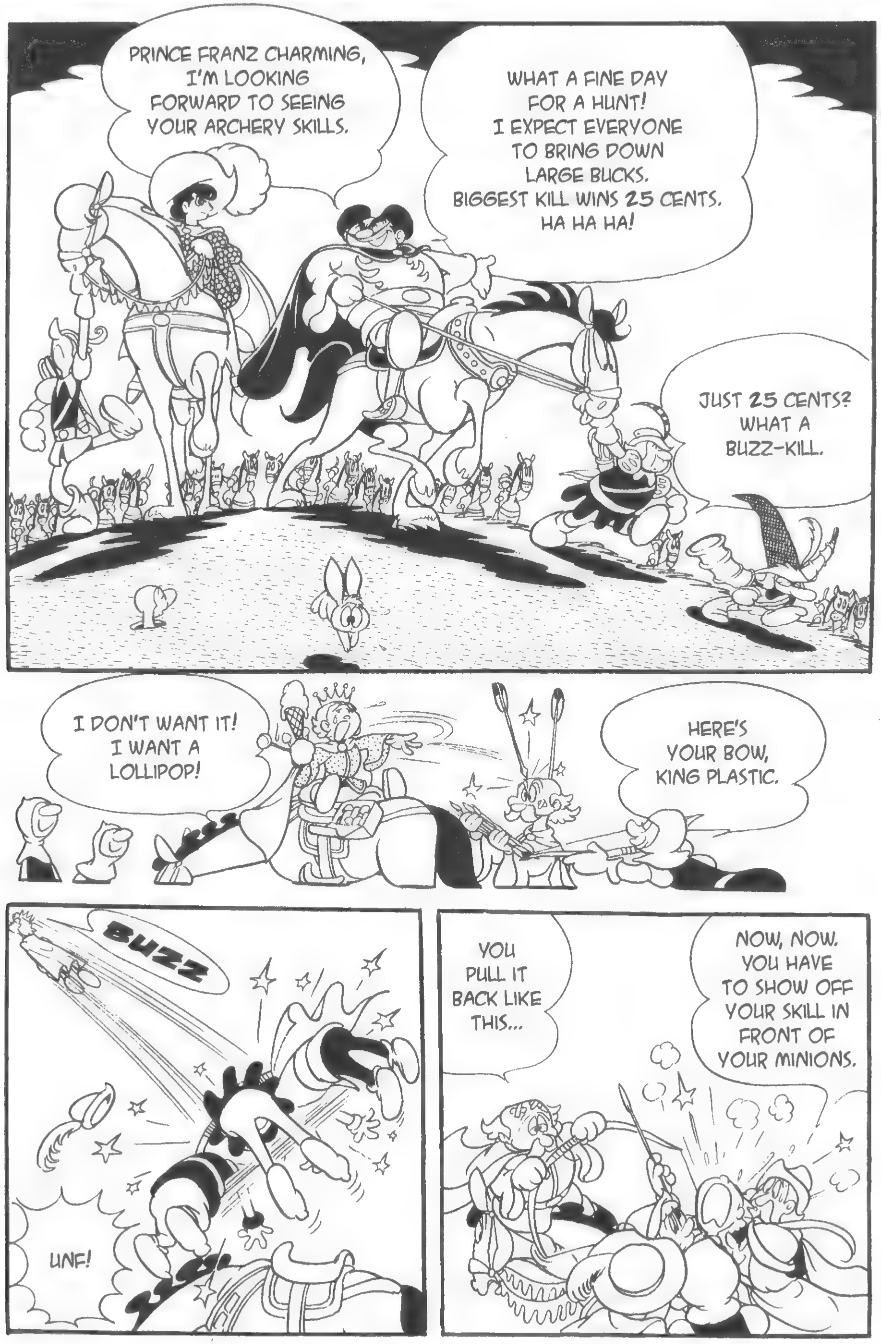
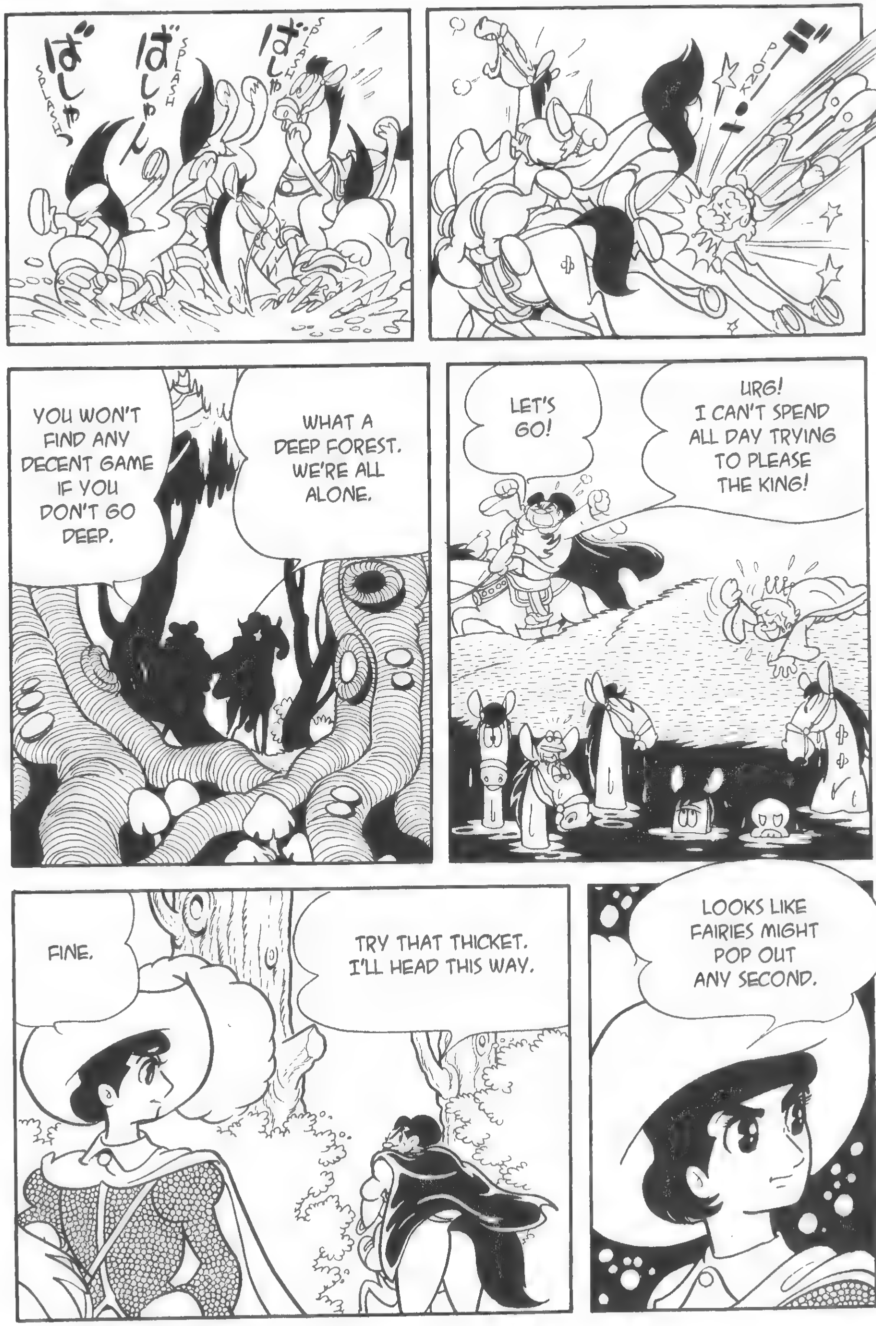
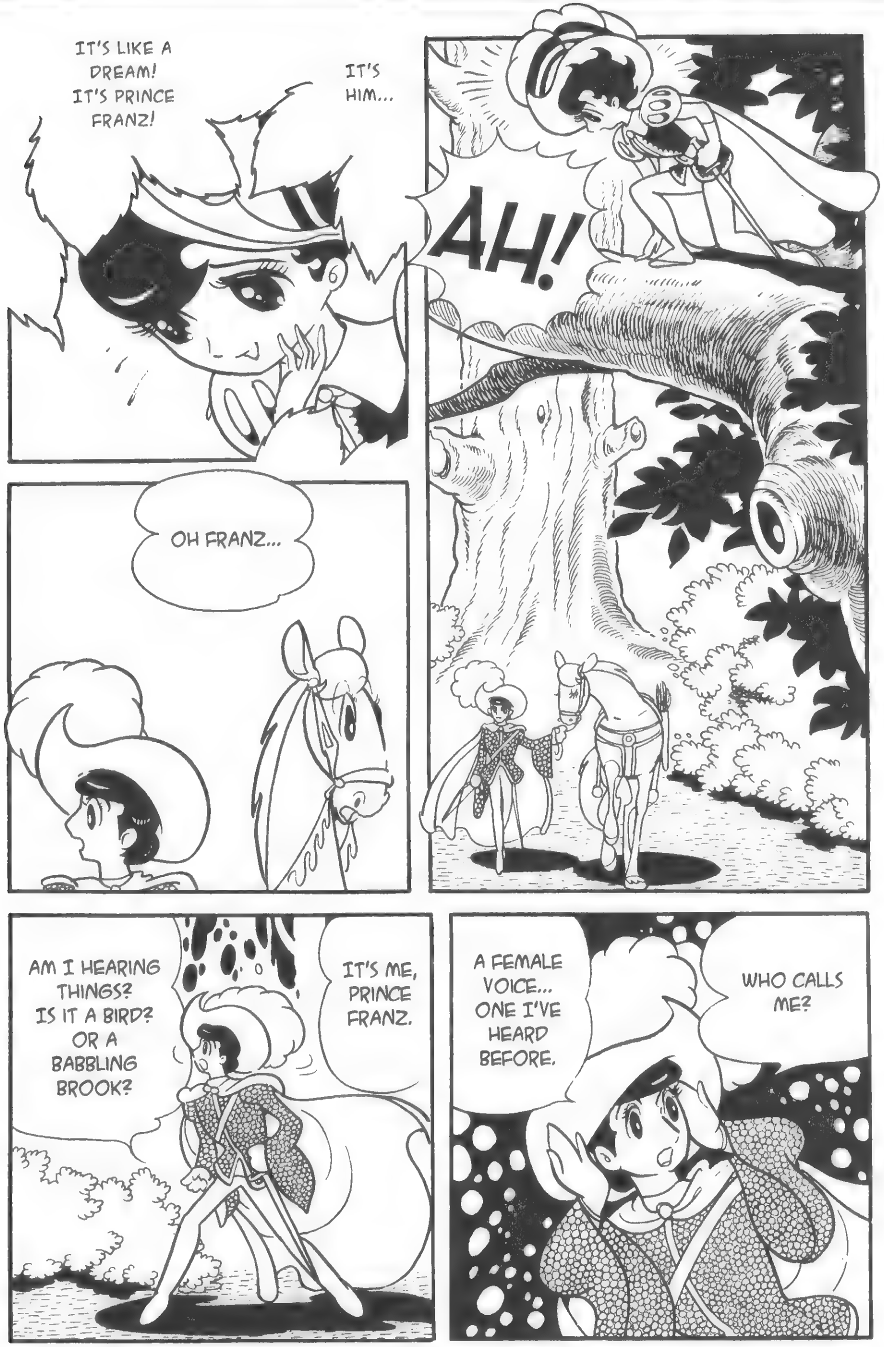
Chapter 17

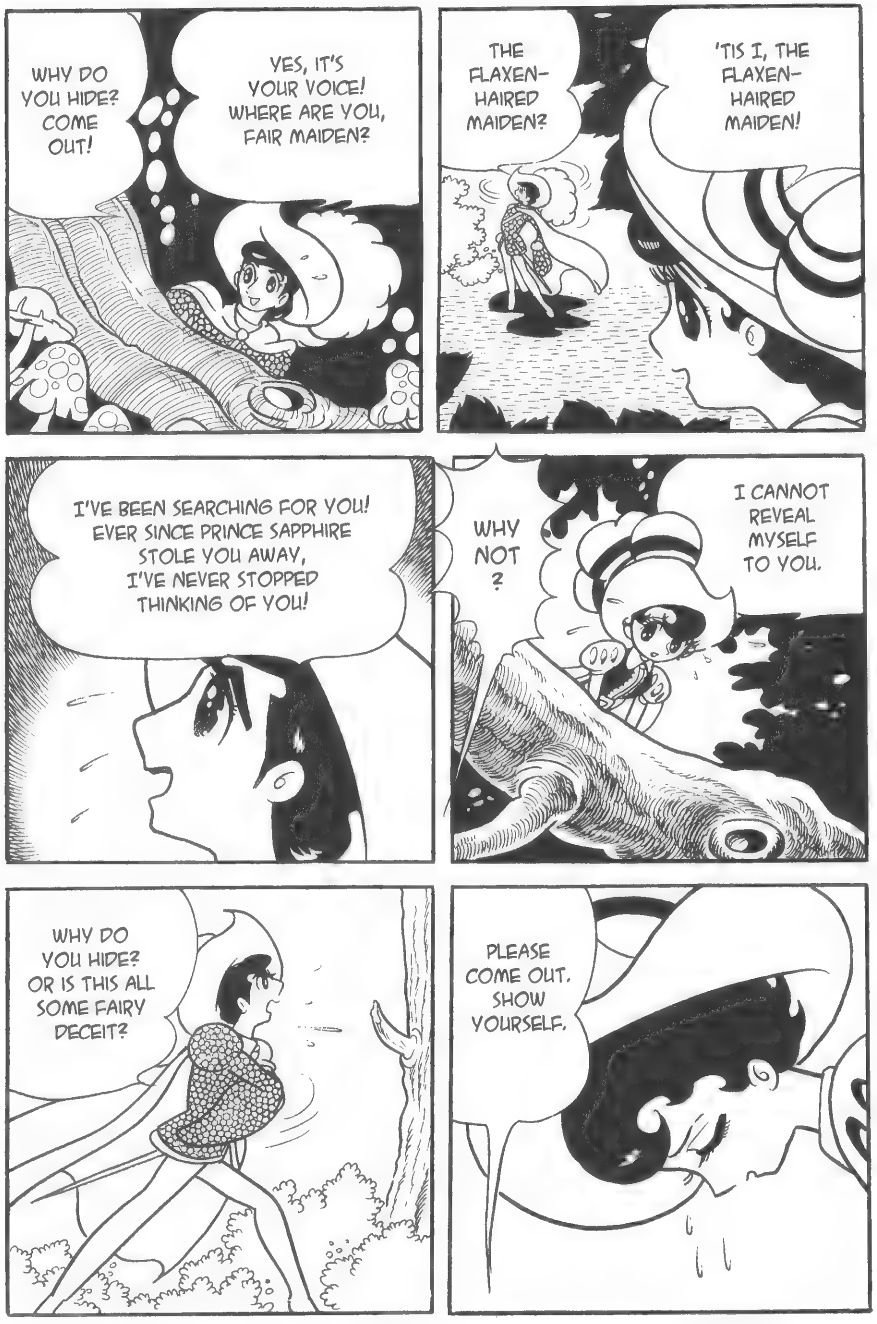
A Happening in the Hawthorn Forest

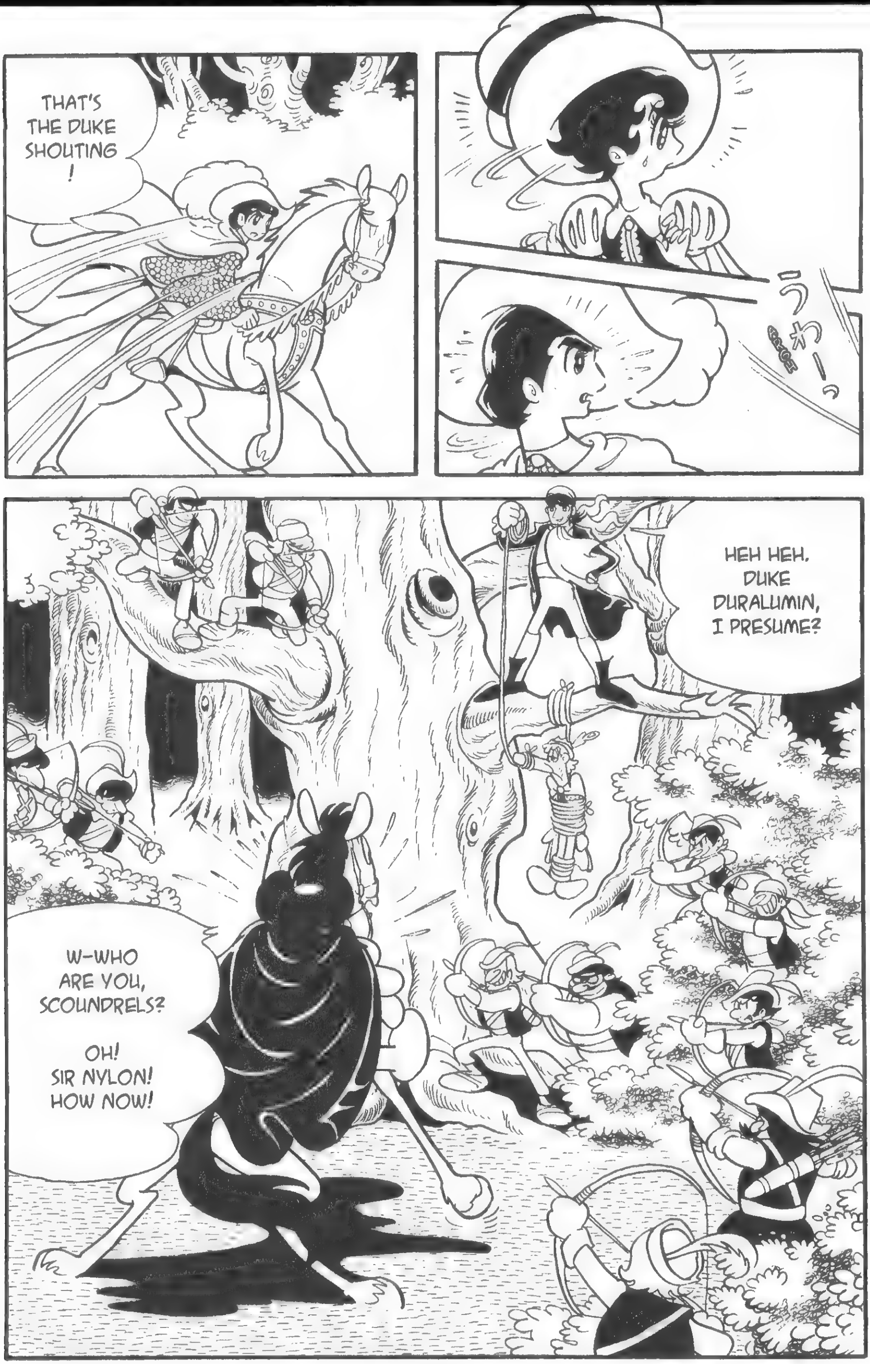

TOO
TOOTLE
TOOTLE
WHIRR
WHIRR
WHIRR
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM

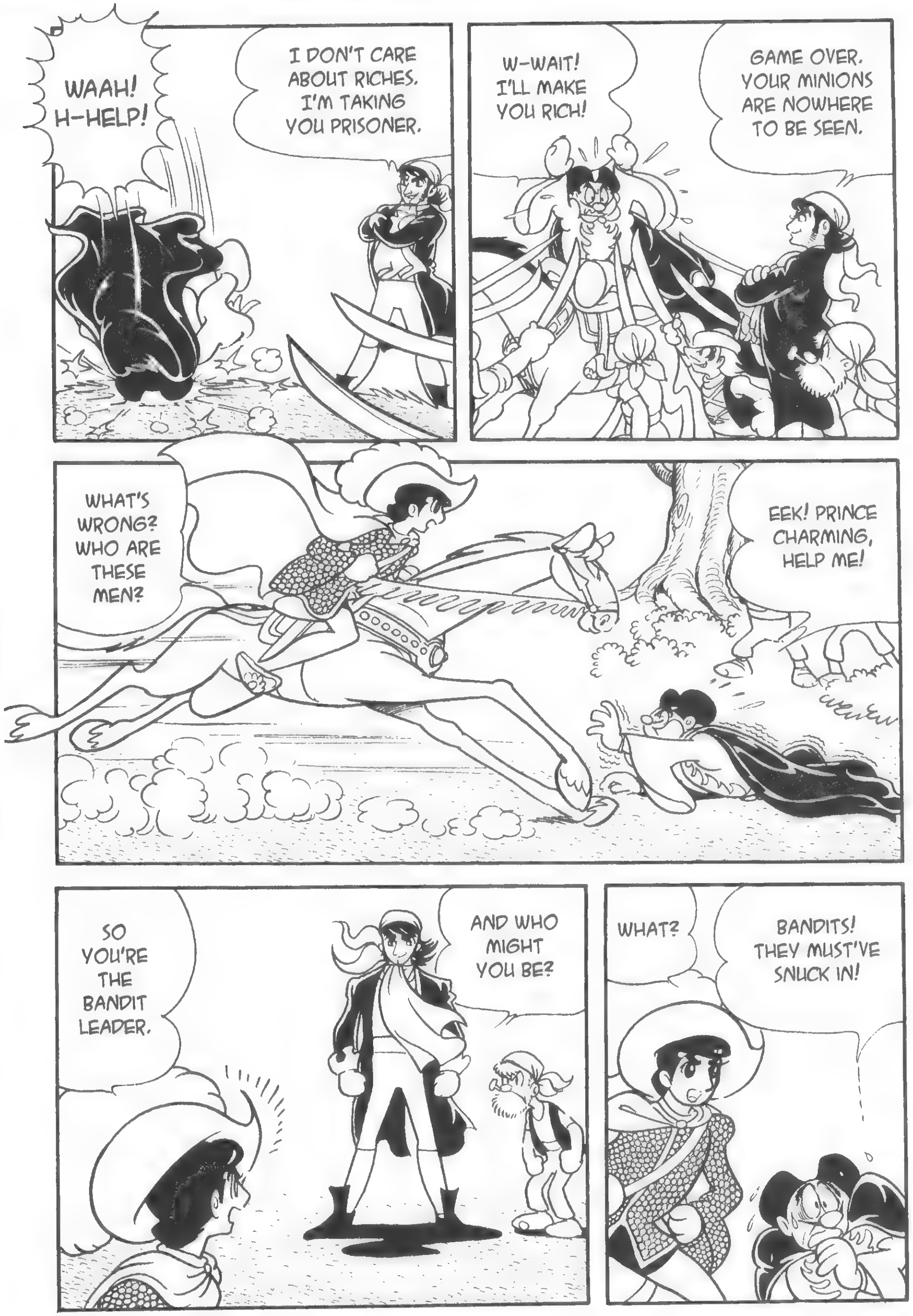

PRINCE FRANZ CHARMING, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOUR ARCHERY SKILLS.
WHAT A FINE DAY FOR A HUNT! I EXPECT EVERYONE TO BRING DOWN LARGE BUCKS. BIGGEST KILL WINS 25 CENTS. HA HA HA!
JUST 25 CENTS? WHAT A BUZZ-KILL.
HERE'S YOUR BOW, KING PLASTIC.
I DON'T WANT IT! I WANT A LOLLIPOP!
BUZZ
UNF!
NOW, NOW. YOU HAVE TO SHOW OFF YOUR SKILL IN FRONT OF YOUR MINIONS.
YOU PULL IT BACK LIKE THIS...

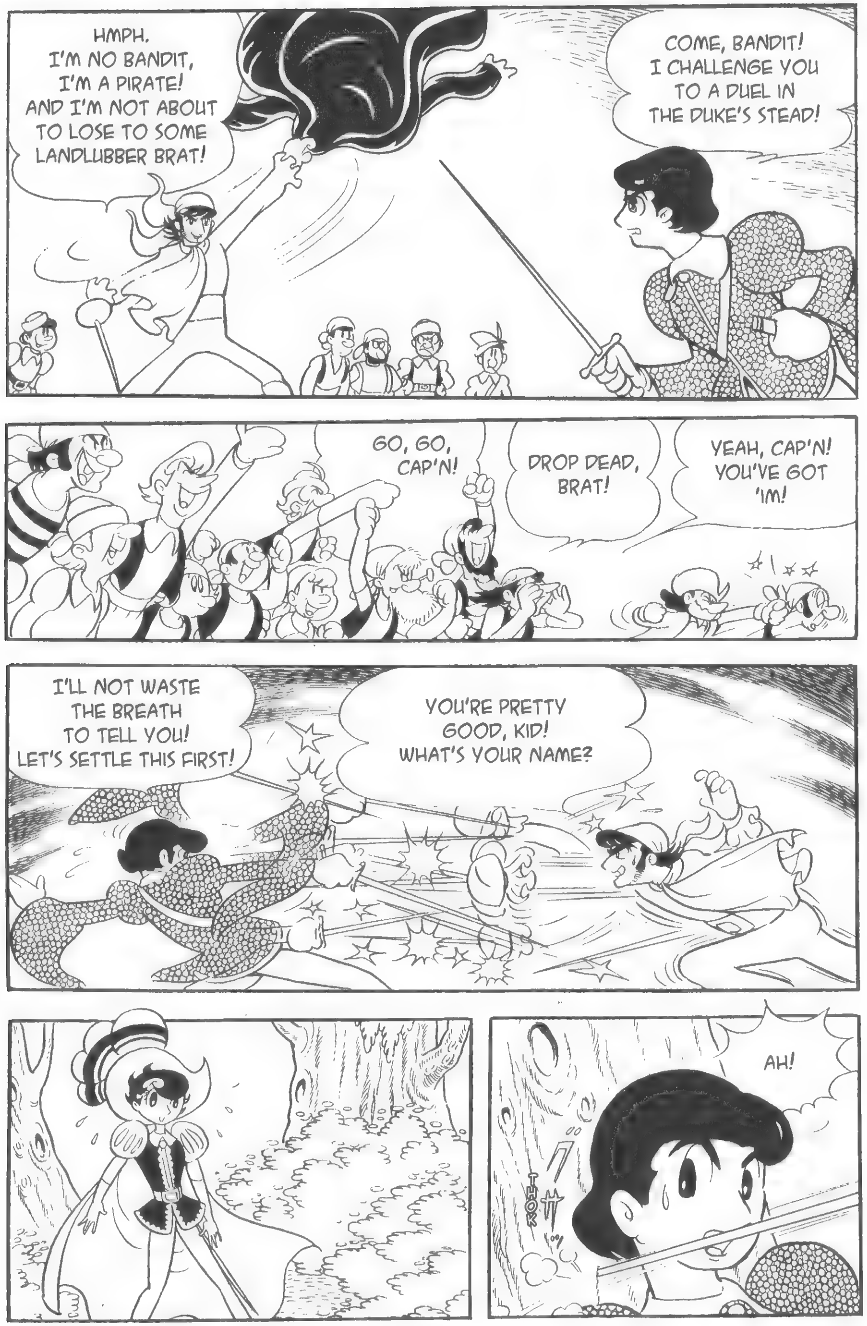

ドー!
PLONK!
ばしゃ SPLASH
ばしゃん SPLASH
ばしゃっ SPLASH
URG! I CAN'T SPEND ALL DAY TRYING TO PLEASE THE KING!
LET'S GO!
WHAT A DEEP FOREST. WE'RE ALL ALONE.
YOU WON'T FIND ANY DECENT GAME IF YOU DON'T GO DEEP.
LOOKS LIKE FAIRIES MIGHT POP OUT ANY SECOND.
TRY THAT THICKET. I'LL HEAD THIS WAY.
FINE.

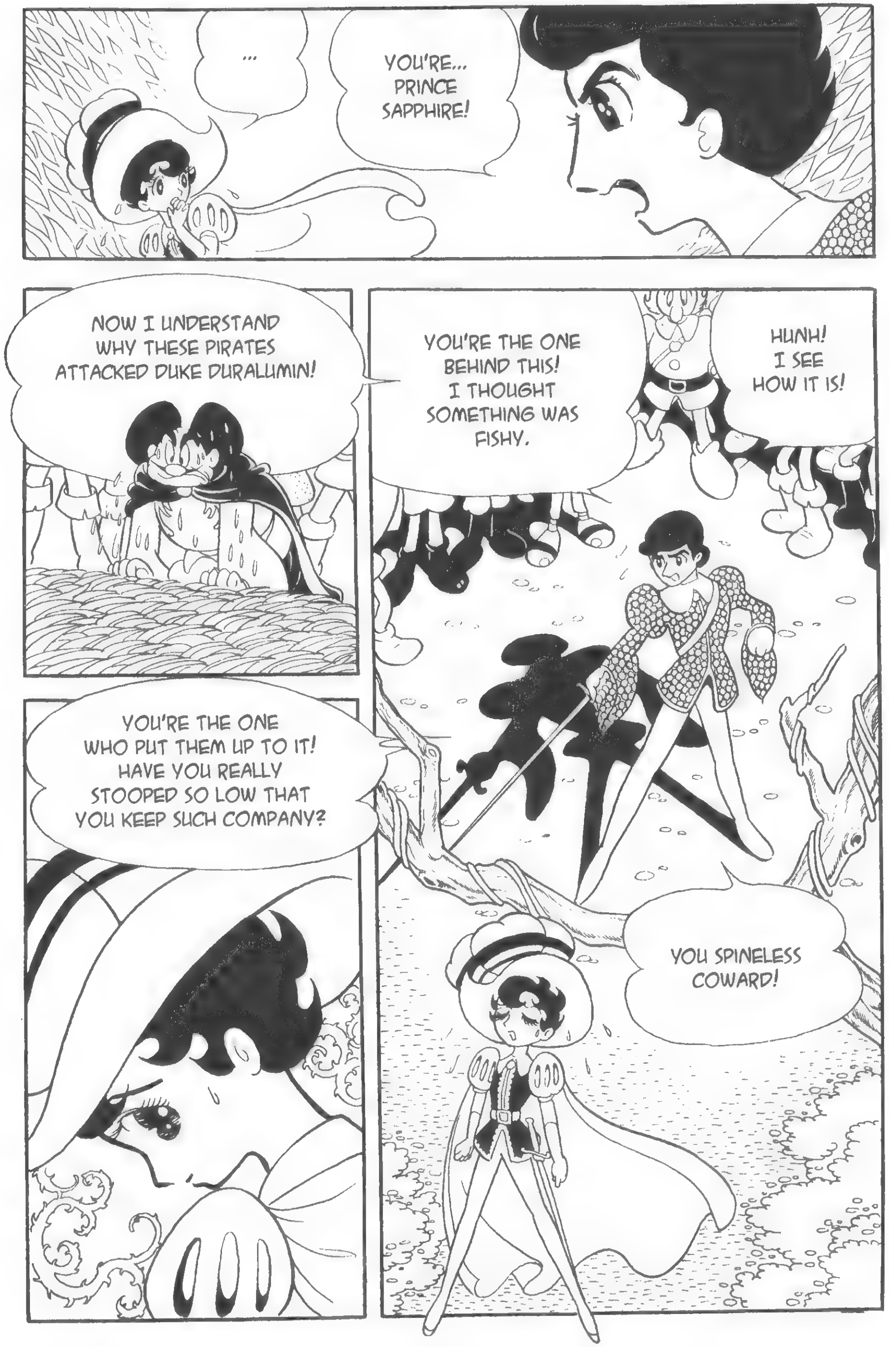

AH!
IT'S HIM...
IT'S LIKE A DREAM! IT'S PRINCE FRANZ!
OH FRANZ...
WHO CALLS ME?
A FEMALE VOICE... ONE I'VE HEARD BEFORE.
IT'S ME, PRINCE FRANZ.
AM I HEARING THINGS? IS IT A BIRD? OR A BABBLING BROOK?

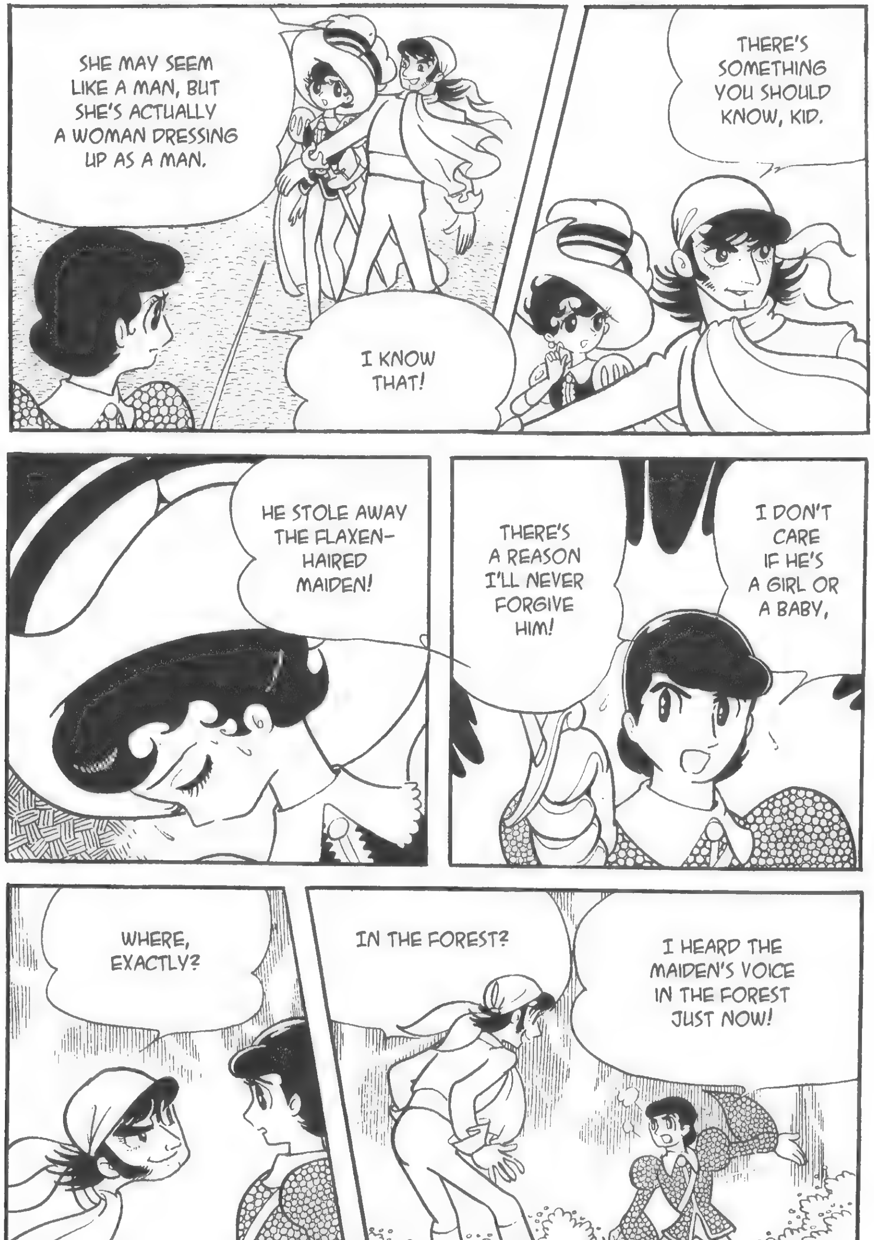

'TIS I, THE FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN!
THE FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN?
YES, IT'S YOUR VOICE! WHERE ARE YOU, FAIR MAIDEN?
WHY DO YOU HIDE? COME OUT!
I CANNOT REVEAL MYSELF TO YOU.
WHY NOT?
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! EVER SINCE PRINCE SAPPHIRE STOLE YOU AWAY, I'VE NEVER STOPPED THINKING OF YOU!
PLEASE COME OUT. SHOW YOURSELF.
WHY DO YOU HIDE? OR IS THIS ALL SOME FAIRY DECEIT?

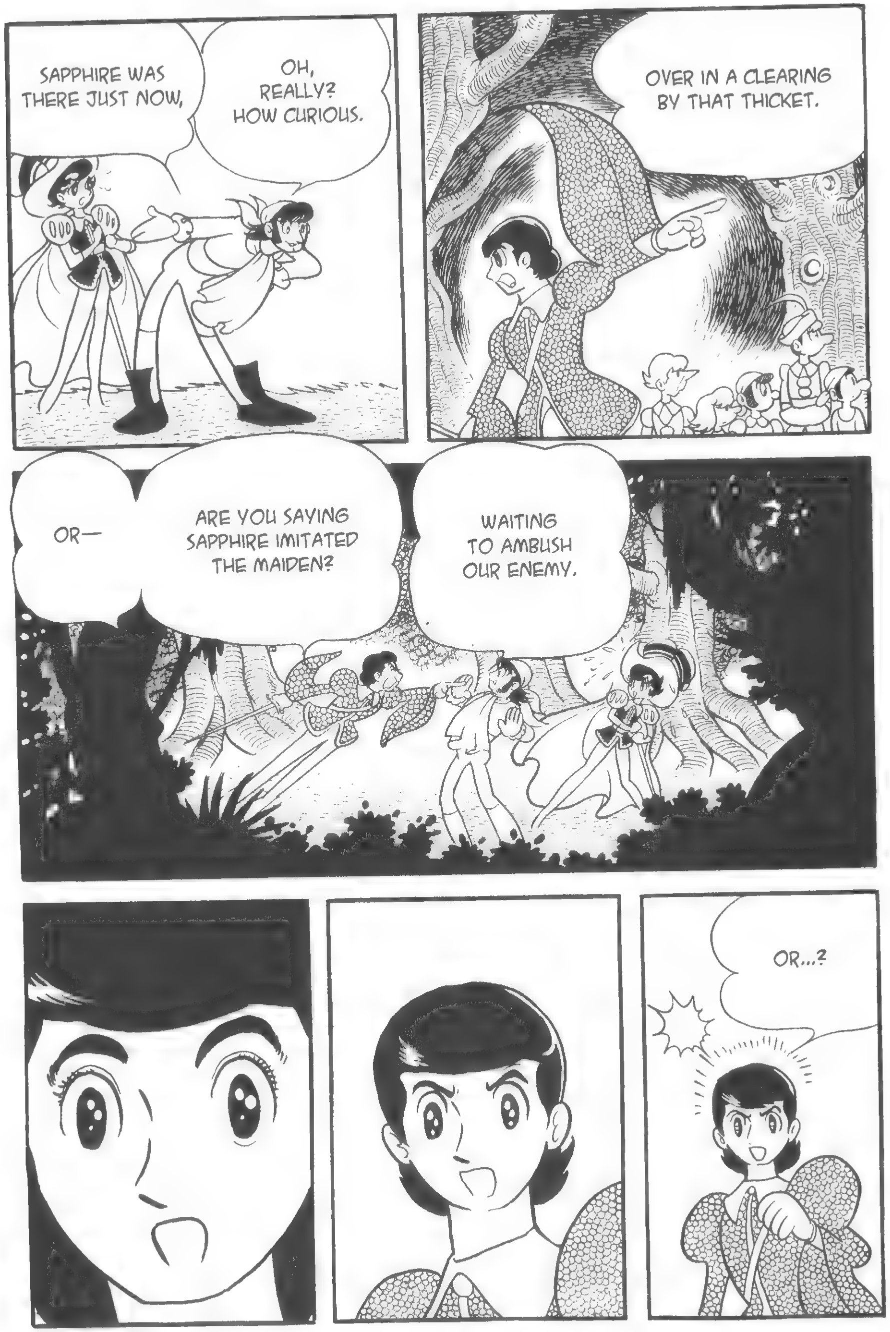

うわーっ
AAGH
THAT'S THE DUKE SHOUTING!
HEH HEH. DUKE DURALUMIN, I PRESUME?
W-WHO ARE YOU, SCOUNDRELS?
OH! SIR NYLON! HOW NOW!

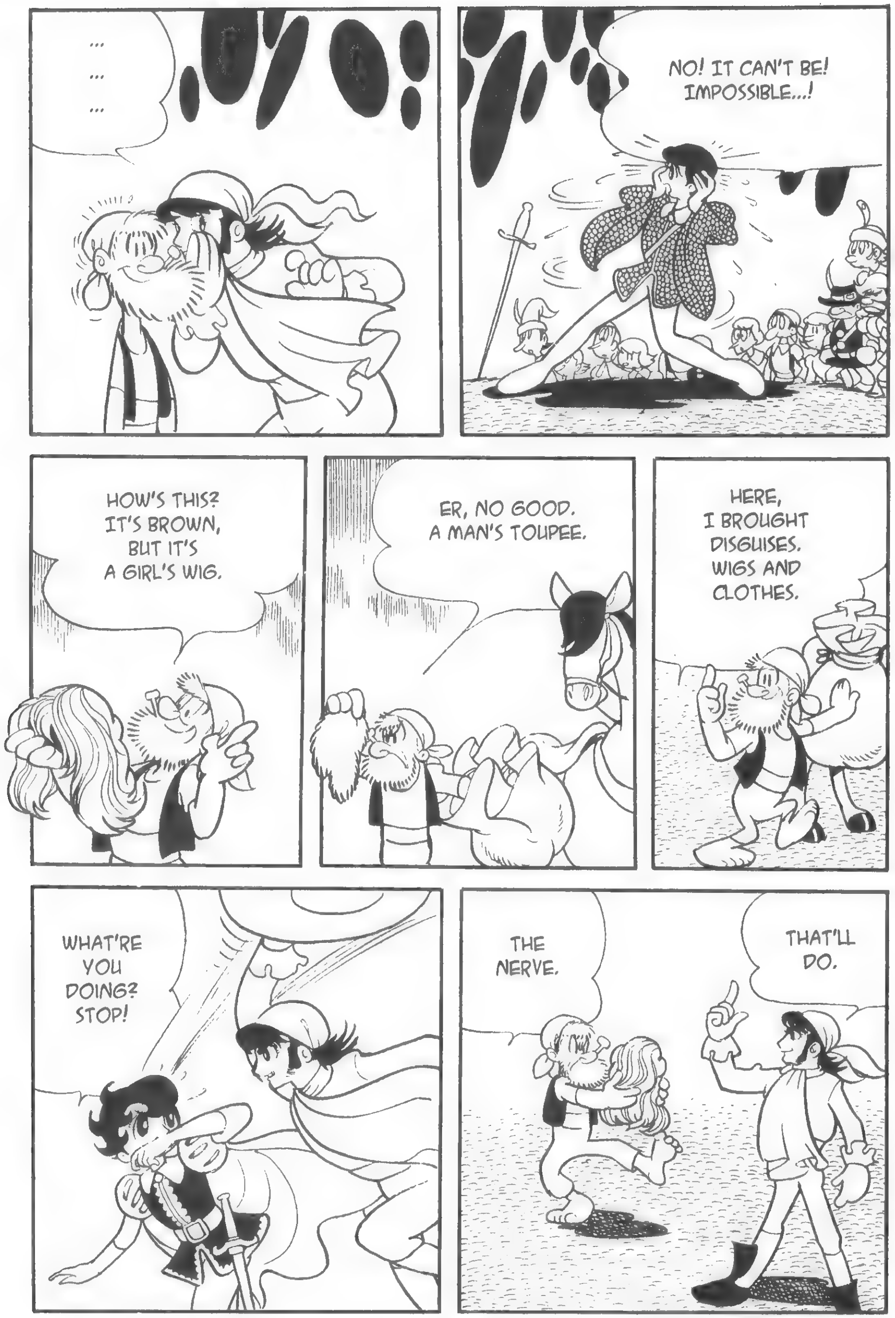

GAME OVER. YOUR MINIONS ARE NOWHERE TO BE SEEN.
W-WAIT! I'LL MAKE YOU RICH!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT RICHES. I'M TAKING YOU PRISONER.
WAAH! H-HELP!
EEK! PRINCE CHARMING, HELP ME!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHO ARE THESE MEN?
BANDITS! THEY MUST'VE SNUCK IN!
WHAT?
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
SO YOU'RE THE BANDIT LEADER.

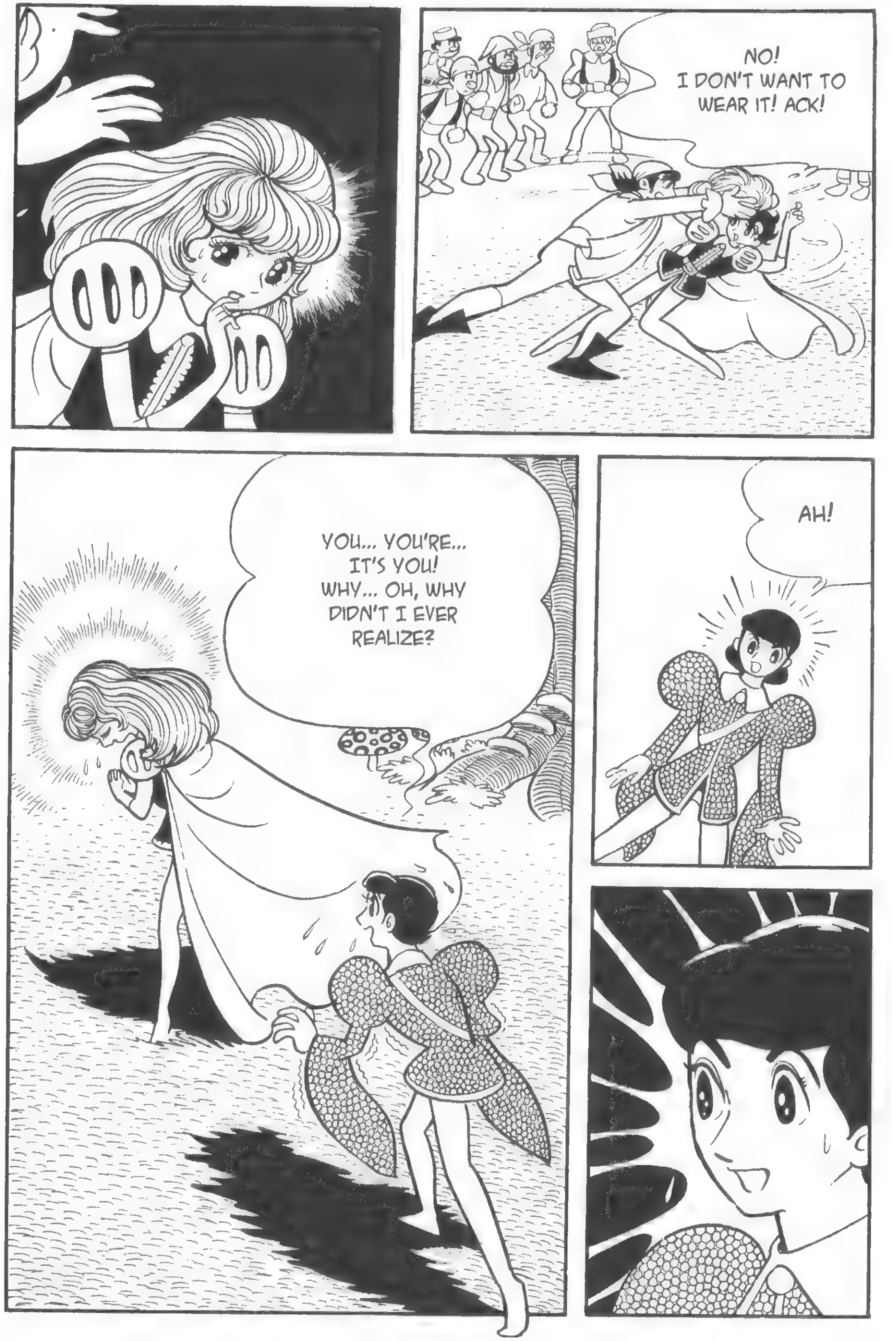

COME, BANDIT! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL IN THE DUKE'S STEAD!
HMPH. I'M NO BANDIT, I'M A PIRATE! AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE TO SOME LANDLUBBER BRAT!
YEAH, CAP'N! YOU'VE GOT 'IM!
DROP DEAD, BRAT!
GO, GO, CAP'N!
YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD, KID! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'LL NOT WASTE THE BREATH TO TELL YOU! LET'S SETTLE THIS FIRST!
AH!
THOK

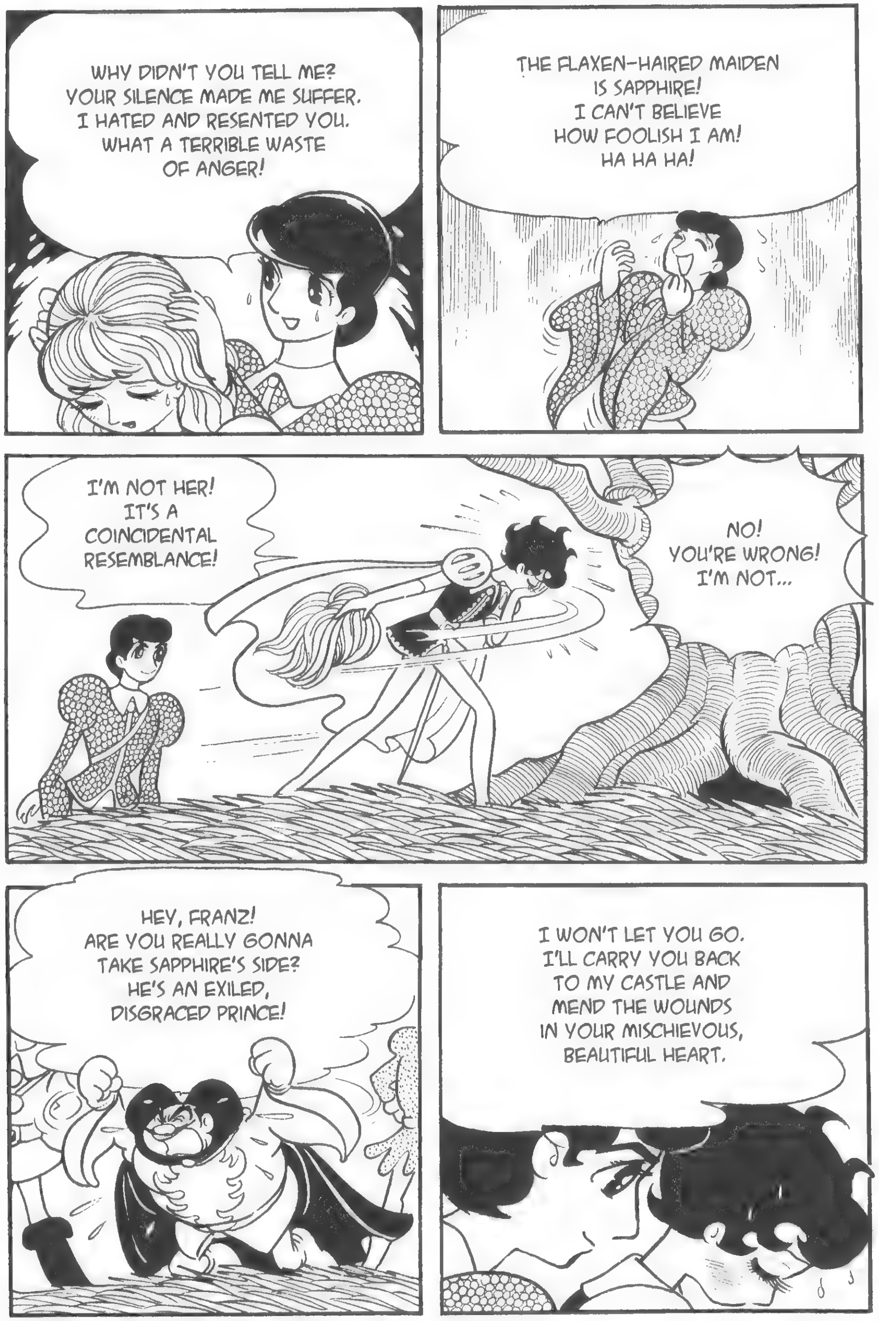

YOU'RE... PRINCE SAPPHIRE!
...
HUNH! I SEE HOW IT IS!
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THESE PIRATES ATTACKED DUKE DURALUMIN!
YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND THIS! I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS FISHY.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PUT THEM UP TO IT! HAVE YOU REALLY STOOPED SO LOW THAT YOU KEEP SUCH COMPANY?
YOU SPINELESS COWARD!

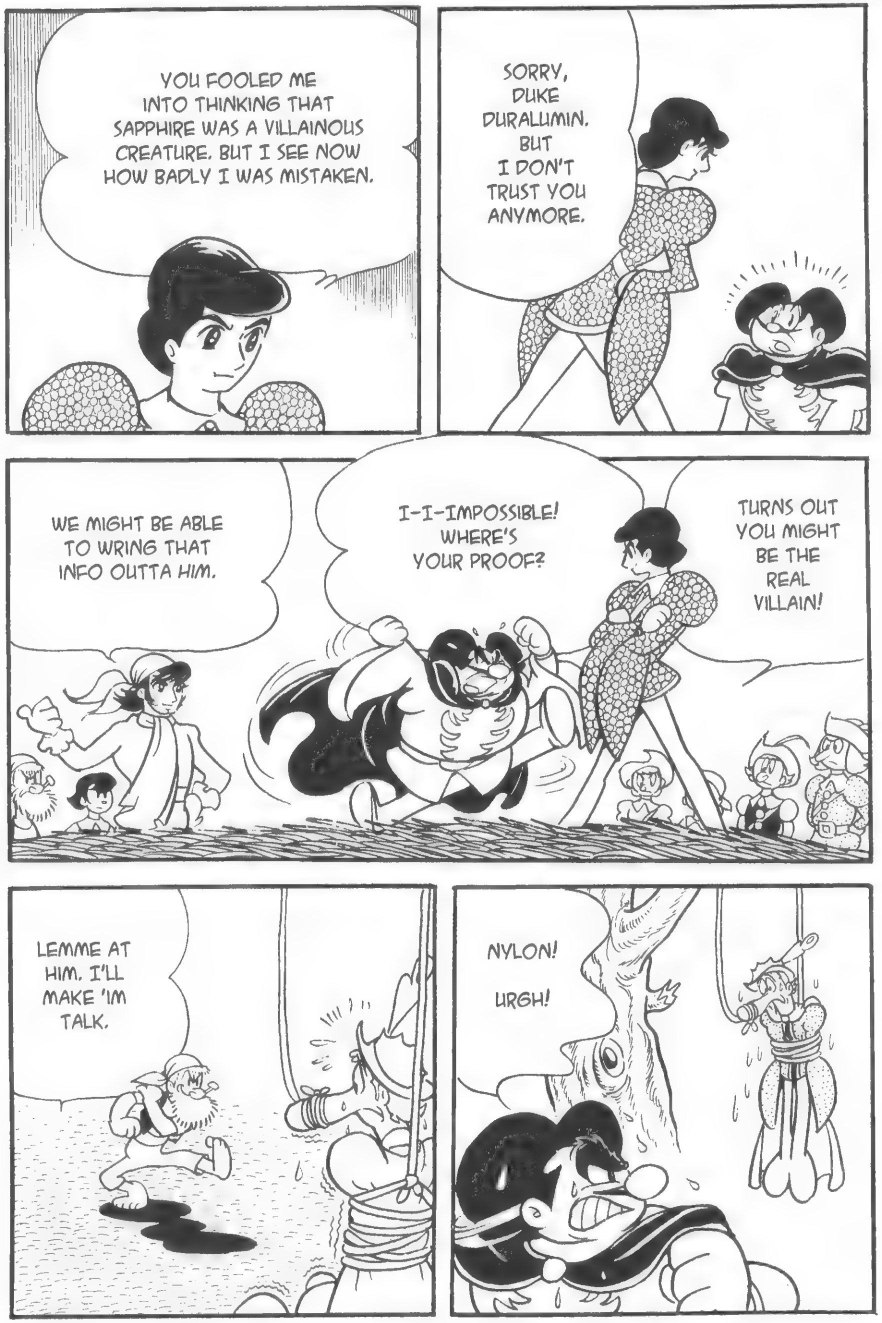

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW, KID.
SHE MAY SEEM LIKE A MAN, BUT SHE'S ACTUALLY A WOMAN DRESSING UP AS A MAN.
I KNOW THAT!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A GIRL OR A BABY,
THERE'S A REASON I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!
HE STOLE AWAY THE FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN!
I HEARD THE MAIDEN'S VOICE IN THE FOREST JUST NOW!
IN THE FOREST?
WHERE, EXACTLY?

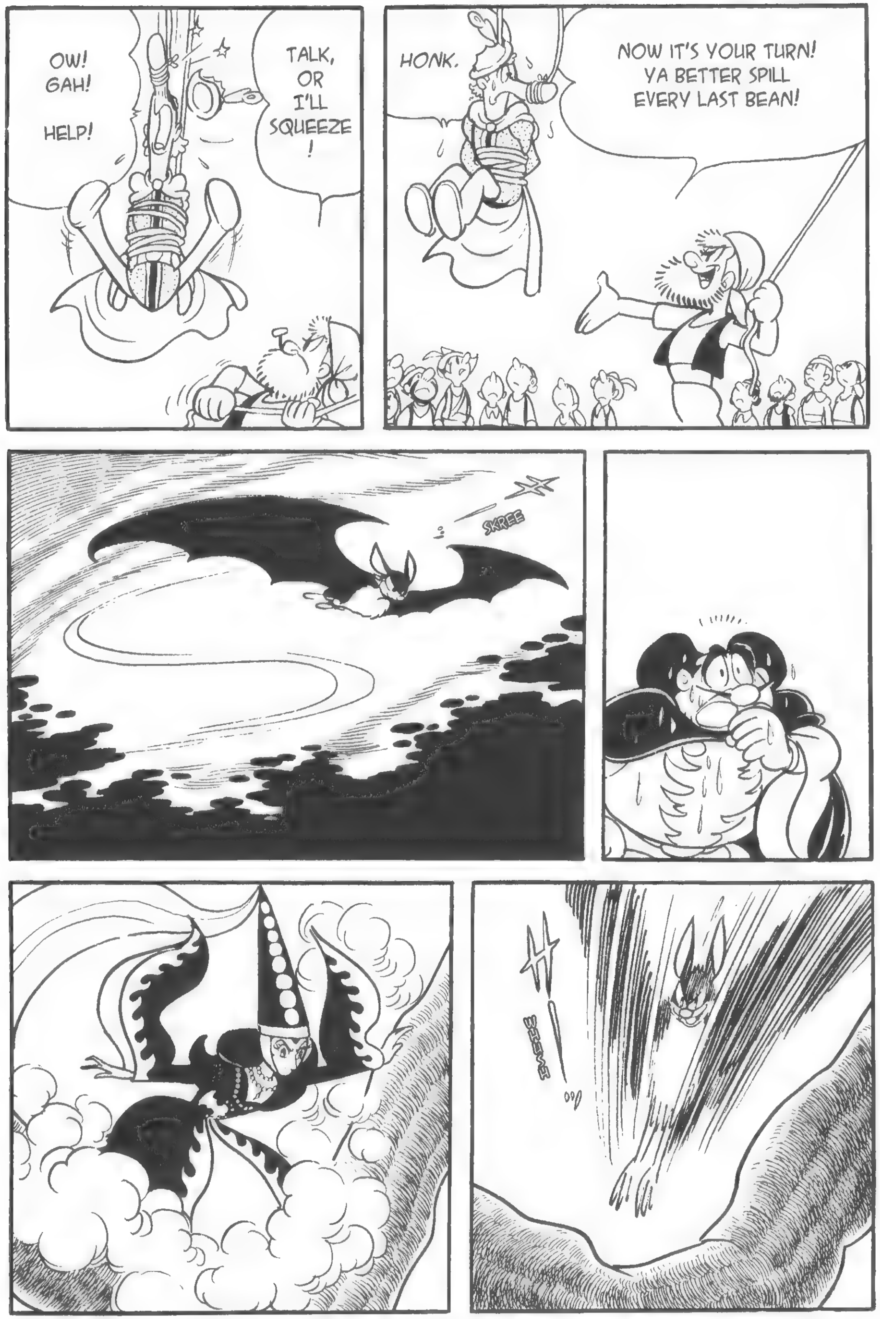

OVER IN A CLEARING BY THAT THICKET.
OH, REALLY? HOW CURIOUS.
SAPPHIRE WAS THERE JUST NOW,
WAITING TO AMBUSH OUR ENEMY.
ARE YOU SAYING SAPPHIRE IMITATED THE MAIDEN?
OR—
OR...?

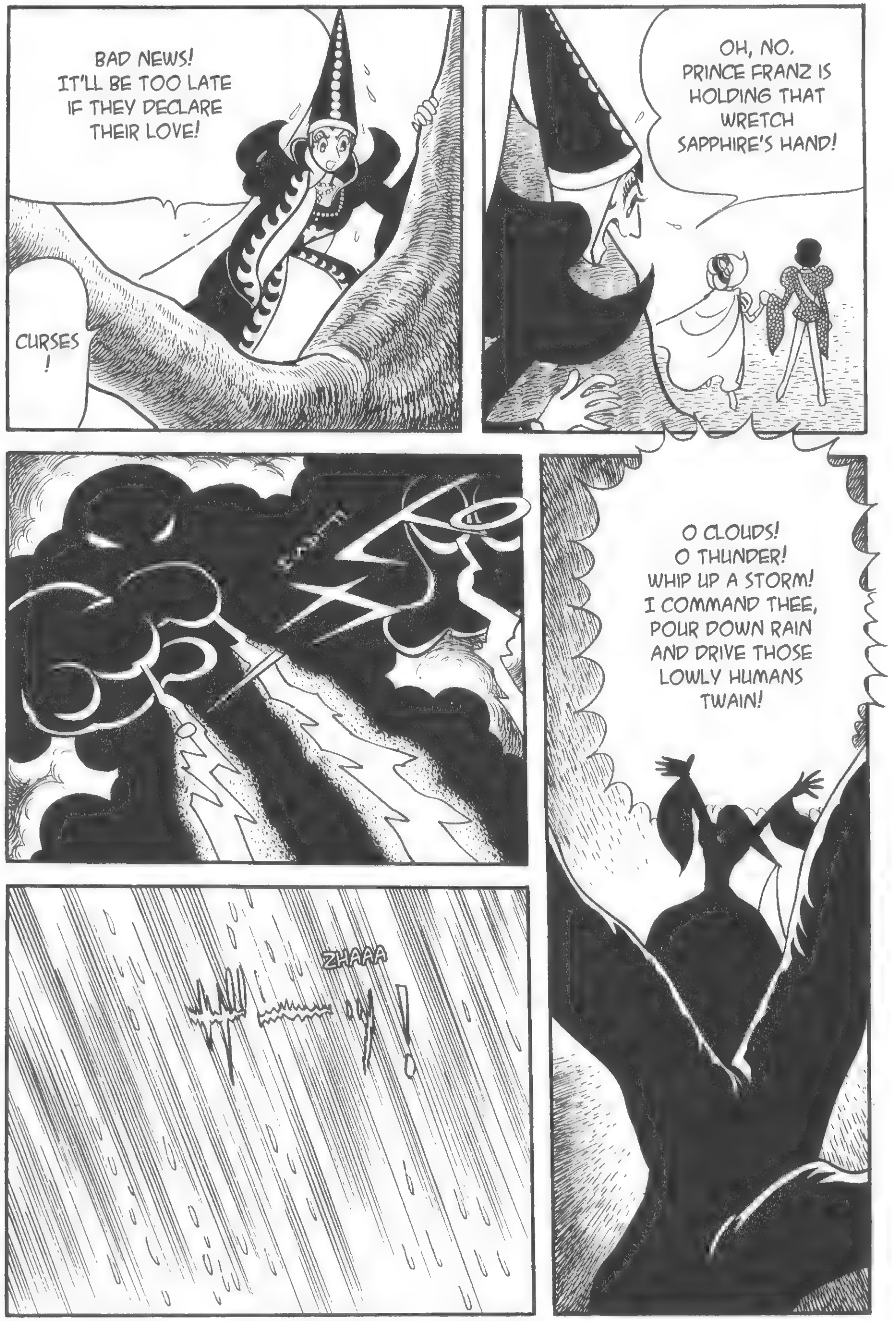

NO! IT CAN'T BE! IMPOSSIBLE...!
...
...
...
HERE, I BROUGHT DISGUISES. WIGS AND CLOTHES.
ER, NO GOOD. A MAN'S TOUPEE.
HOW'S THIS? IT'S BROWN, BUT IT'S A GIRL'S WIG.
THAT'LL DO.
THE NERVE.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? STOP!

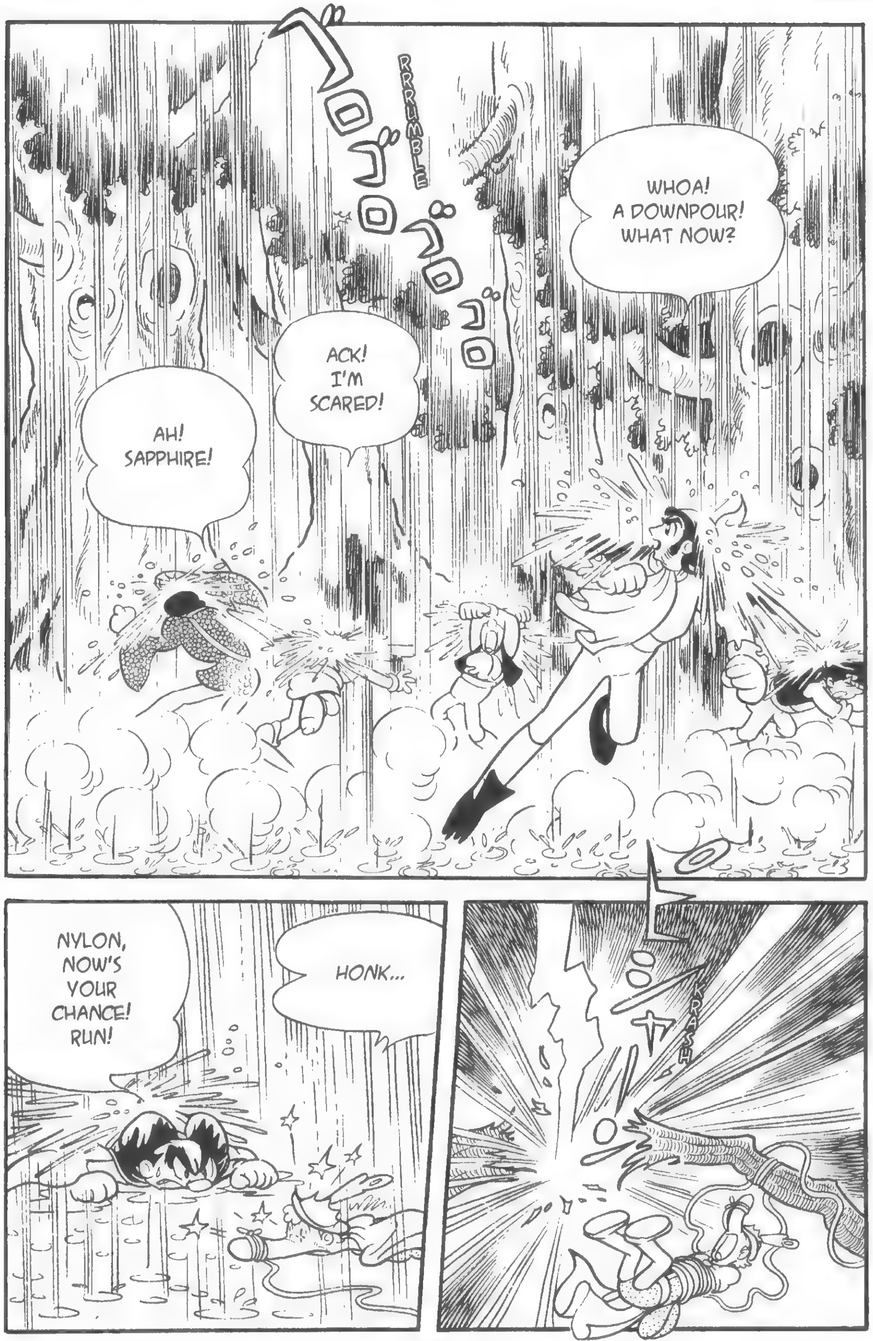

NO!
I DON'T WANT TO
WEAR IT! ACK!
AH!
YOU... YOU'RE...
IT'S YOU!
WHY... OH, WHY
DIDN'T I EVER
REALIZE?

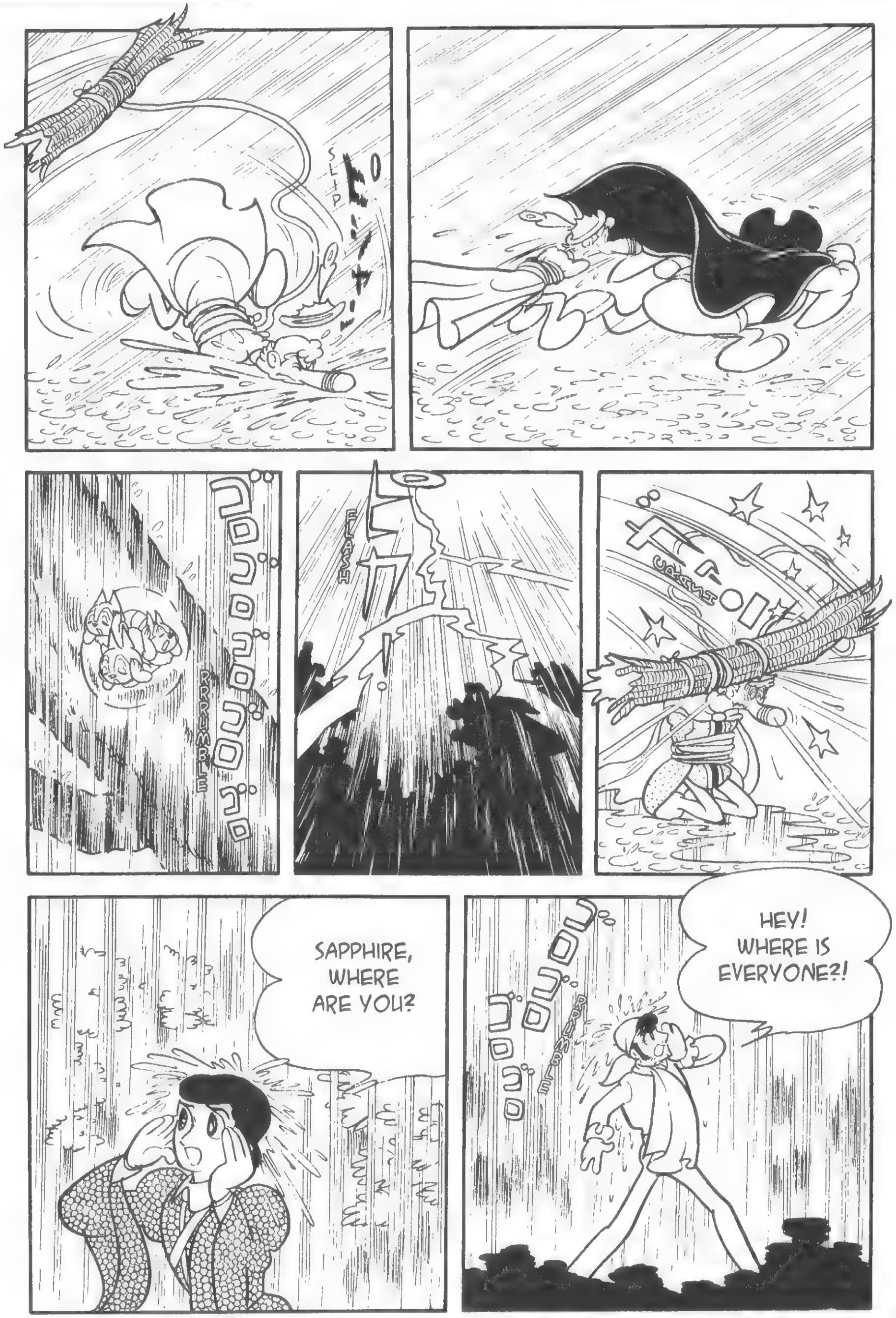

THE FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN
IS SAPPHIRE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE
HOW FOOLISH I AM!
HA HA HA!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
YOUR SILENCE MADE ME SUFFER.
I HATED AND RESENTED YOU.
WHAT A TERRIBLE WASTE
OF ANGER!
NO!
YOU'RE WRONG!
I'M NOT...
I'M NOT HER!
IT'S A
COINCIDENTAL
RESEMBLANCE!
I WON'T LET YOU GO.
I'LL CARRY YOU BACK
TO MY CASTLE AND
MEND THE WOUNDS
IN YOUR MISCHIEVOUS,
BEAUTIFUL HEART.
HEY, FRANZ!
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA
TAKE SAPPHIRE'S SIDE?
HE'S AN EXILED,
DISGRACED PRINCE!

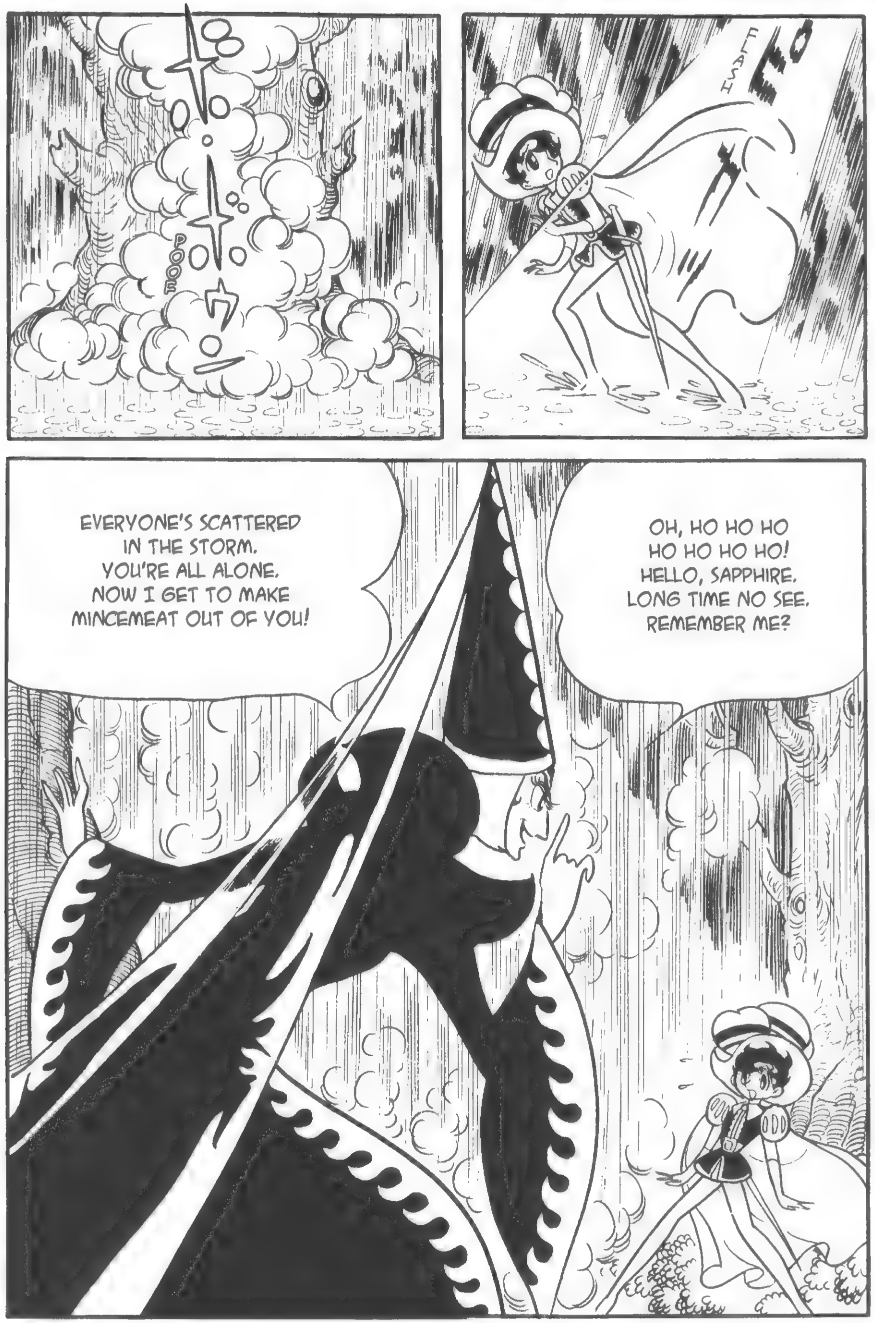

SORRY, DUKE DURALUMIN. BUT I DON'T TRUST YOU ANYMORE.
YOU FOOLED ME INTO THINKING THAT SAPPHIRE WAS A VILLAINOUS CREATURE. BUT I SEE NOW HOW BADLY I WAS MISTAKEN.
TURNS OUT YOU MIGHT BE THE REAL VILLAIN!
I-I-IMPOSSIBLE! WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO WRING THAT INFO OUTTA HIM.
NYLON!
URGH!
LEMME AT HIM. I'LL MAKE 'IM TALK.

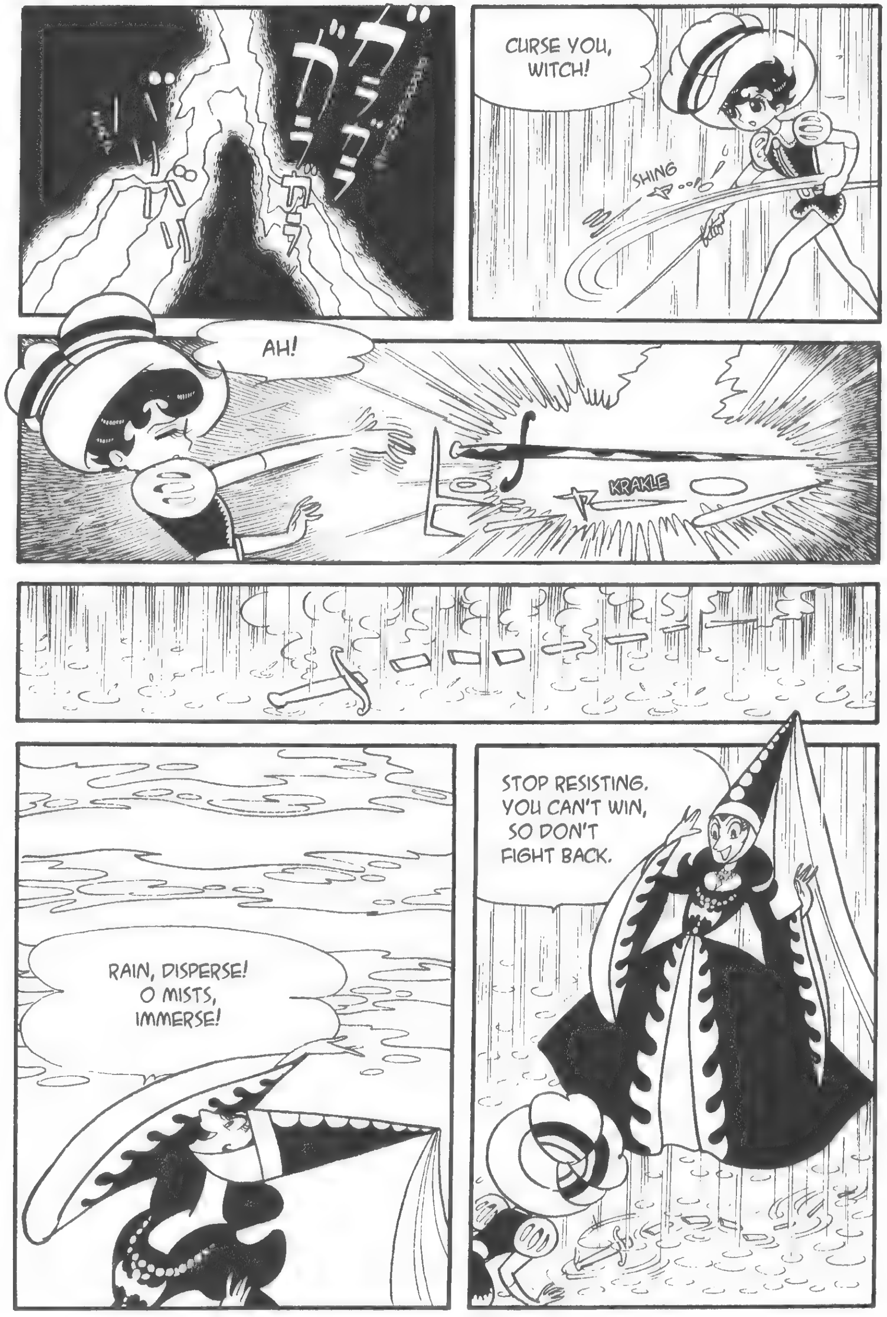

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! YA BETTER SPILL EVERY LAST BEAN!
HONK.
TALK, OR I'LL SQUEEZE!
OW! GAH!
HELP!
SKREE
SHWEEE

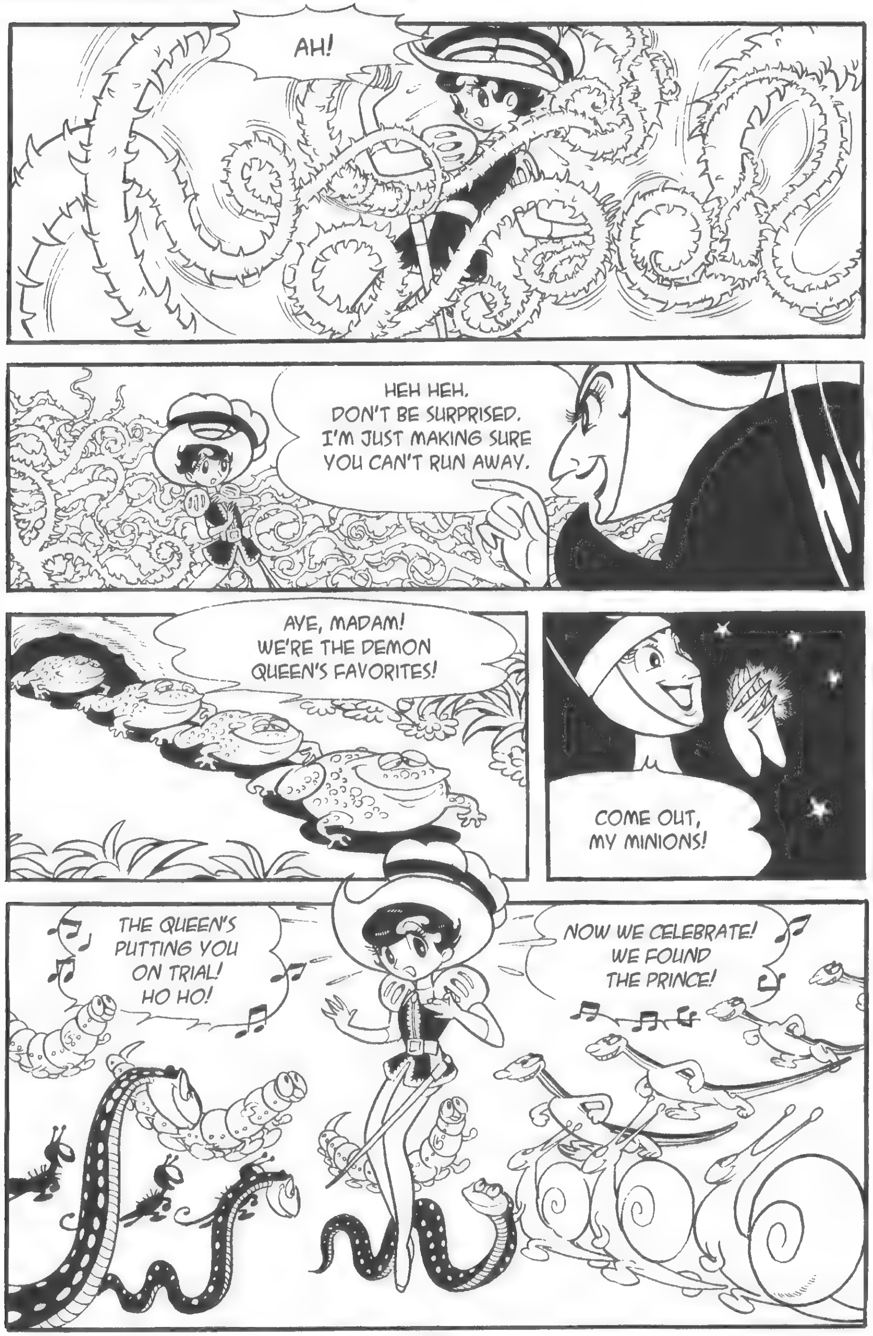

OH, NO. PRINCE FRANZ IS HOLDING THAT WRETCH SAPPHIRE'S HAND!
BAD NEWS! IT'LL BE TOO LATE IF THEY DECLARE THEIR LOVE!
CURSES!
O CLOUDS! O THUNDER! WHIP UP A STORM! I COMMAND THEE, POUR DOWN RAIN AND DRIVE THOSE LOWLY HUMANS TWAIN!
ZHAAA

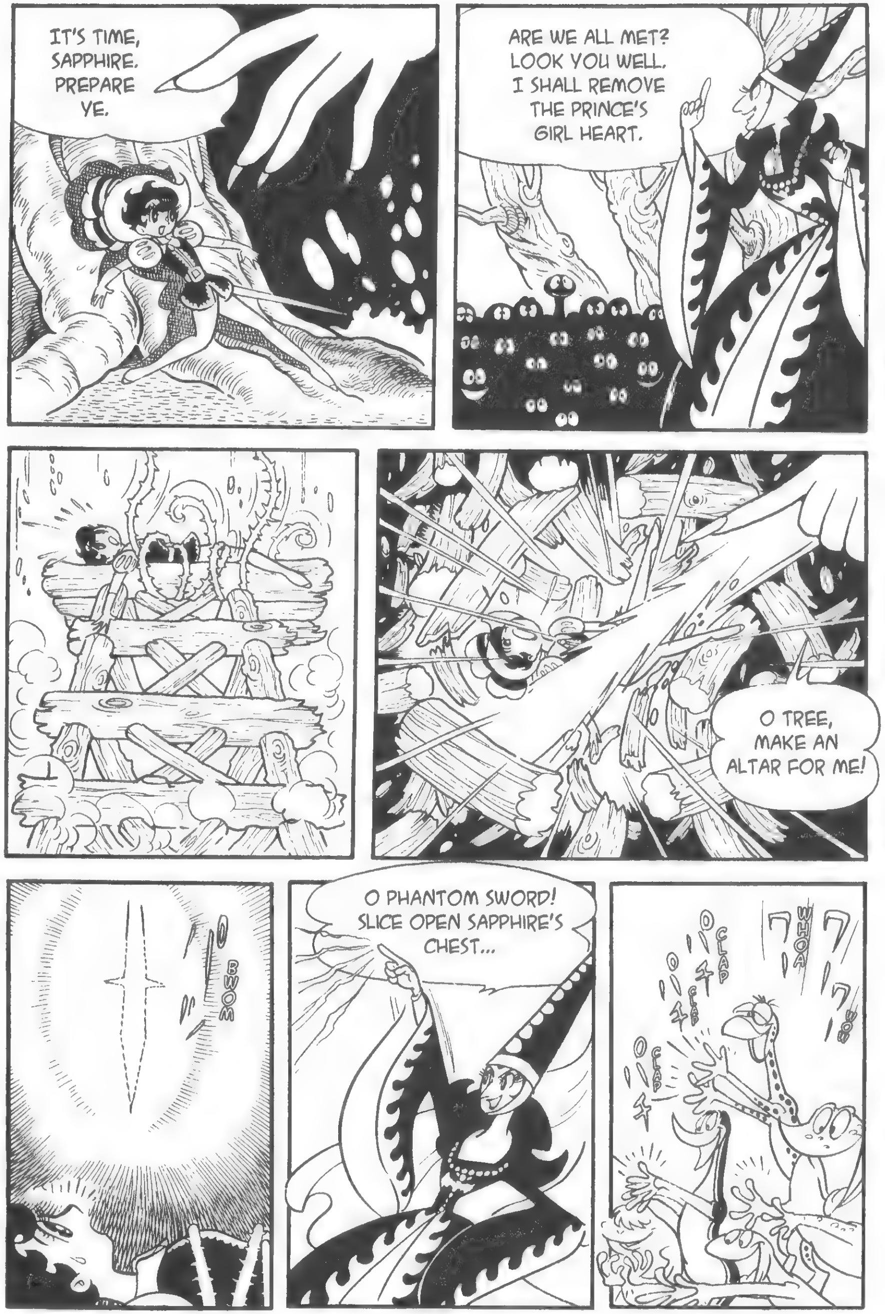

WHOA! A DOWNPOUR! WHAT NOW?
RRRUMBLE
ACK! I'M SCARED!
AH! SAPPHIRE!
KRASH
HONK...
NYLON, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE! RUN!

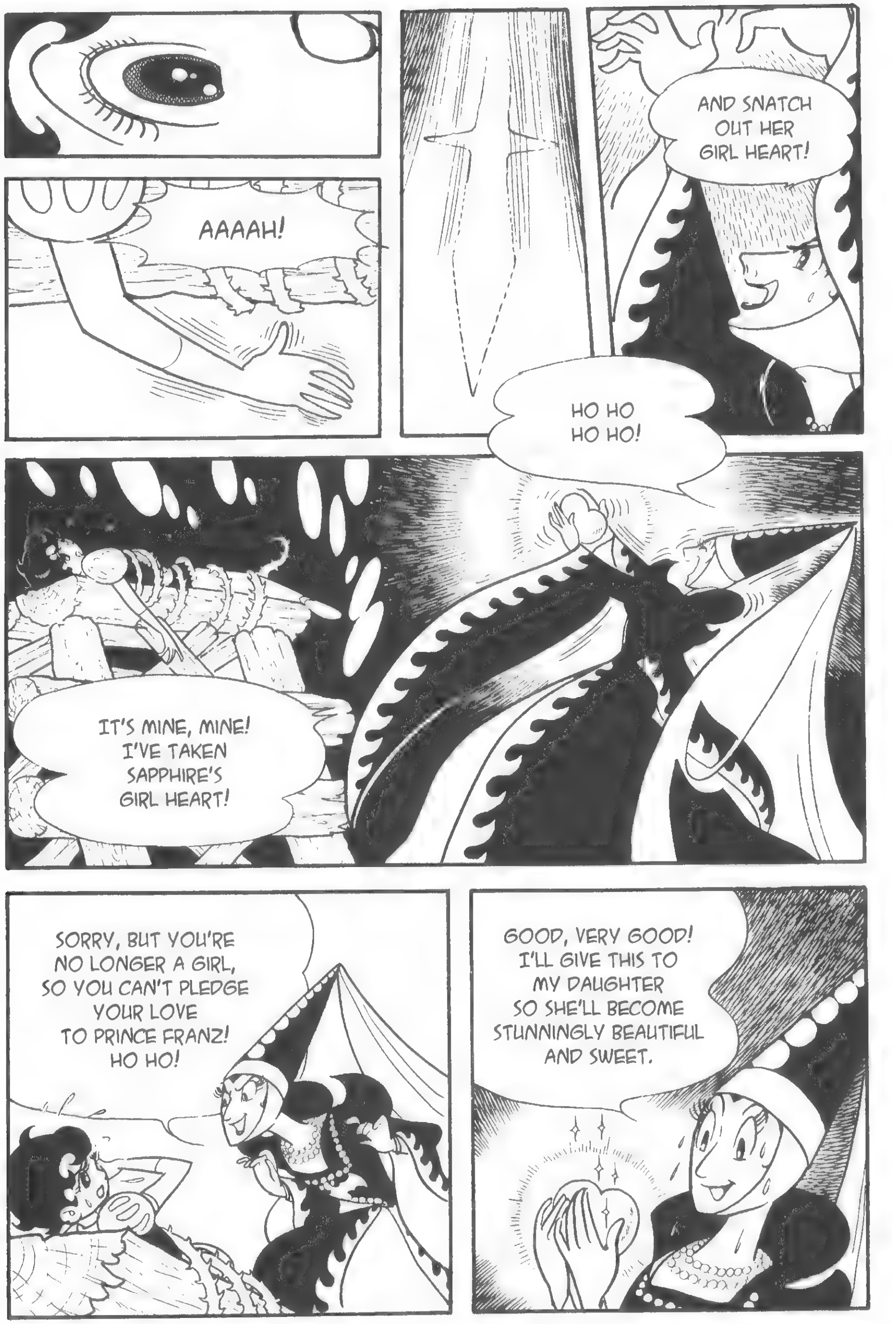

SLIP
FLASH
RRRUMBLE
HEY! WHERE IS EVERYONE?!
RRRUMBLE
SAPPHIRE, WHERE ARE YOU?

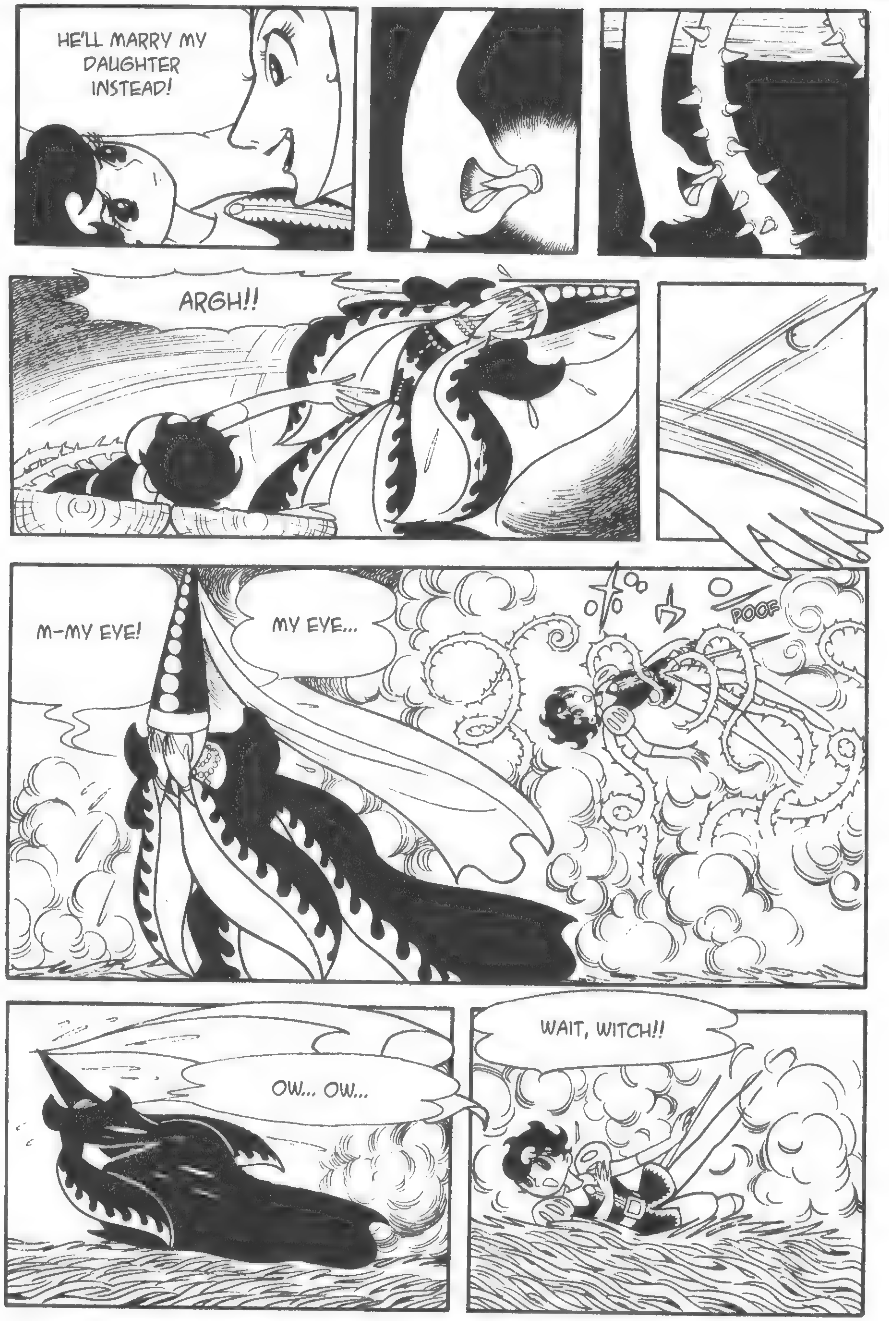

FLASH
POOF
OH, HO HO HO HO HO HO HO! HELLO, SAPPHIRE. LONG TIME NO SEE. REMEMBER ME?
EVERYONE'S SCATTERED IN THE STORM. YOU'RE ALL ALONE. NOW I GET TO MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF YOU!

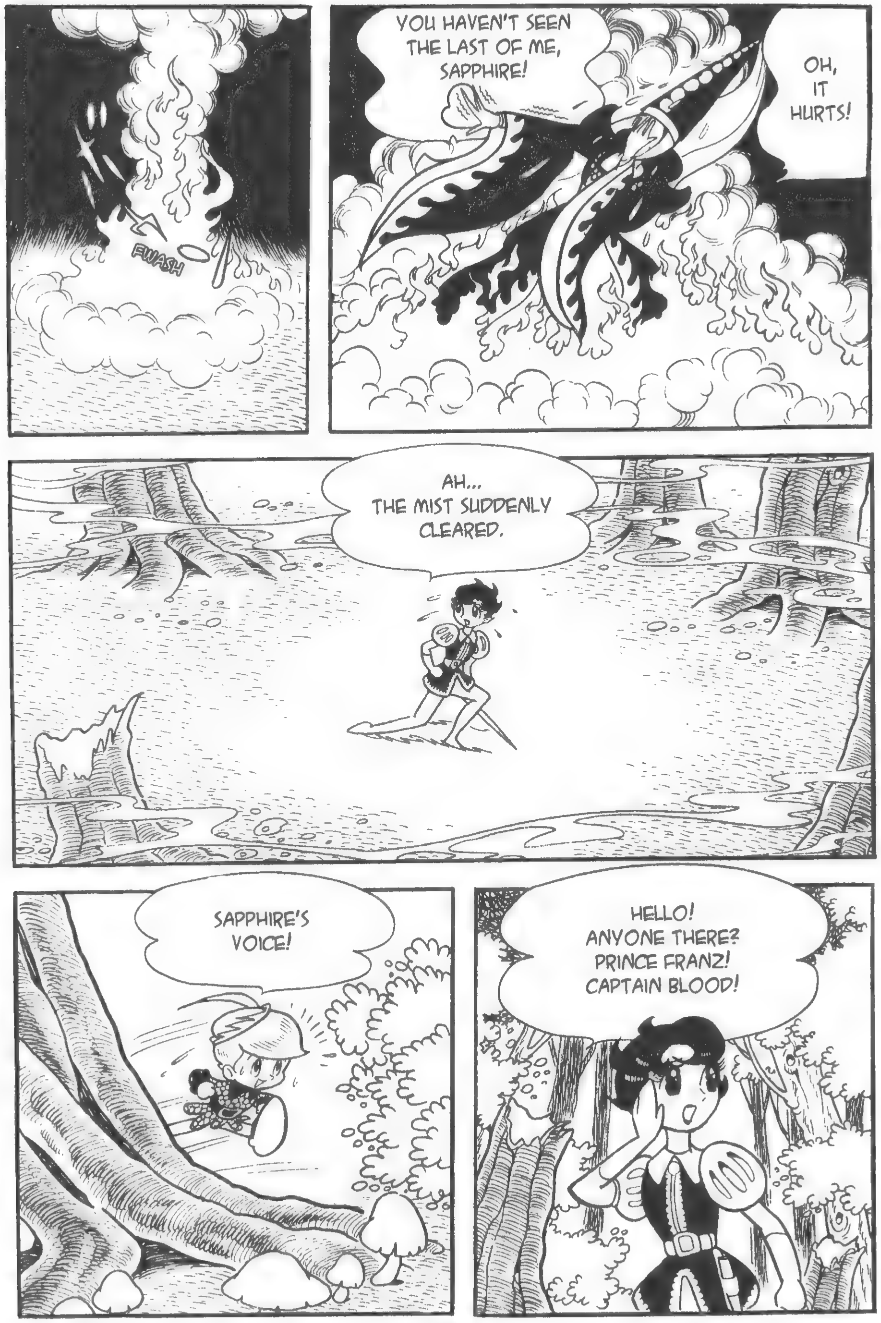

ガラガラ
ガララ
ガラ
バリバリ
CURSE YOU, WITCH!
SHING
AH!
KRAKLE
STOP RESISTING. YOU CAN'T WIN, SO DON'T FIGHT BACK.
RAIN, DISPERSE! O MISTS, IMMERSE!

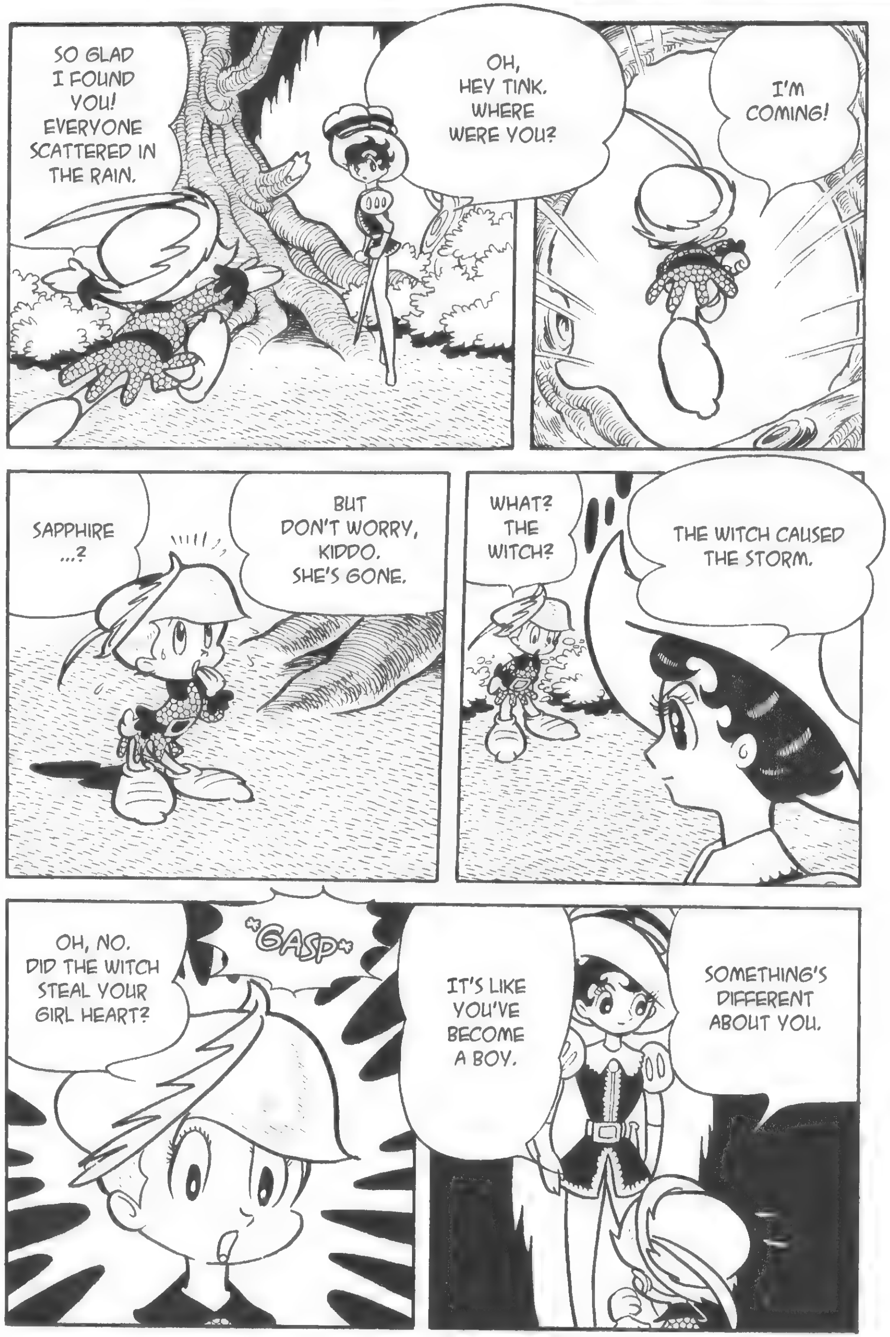

AH!
HEH HEH. DON'T BE SURPRISED. I'M JUST MAKING SURE YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY.
COME OUT, MY MINIONS!
AYE, MADAM! WE'RE THE DEMON QUEEN'S FAVORITES!
NOW WE CELEBRATE! WE FOUND THE PRINCE!
THE QUEEN'S PUTTING YOU ON TRIAL! HO HO!

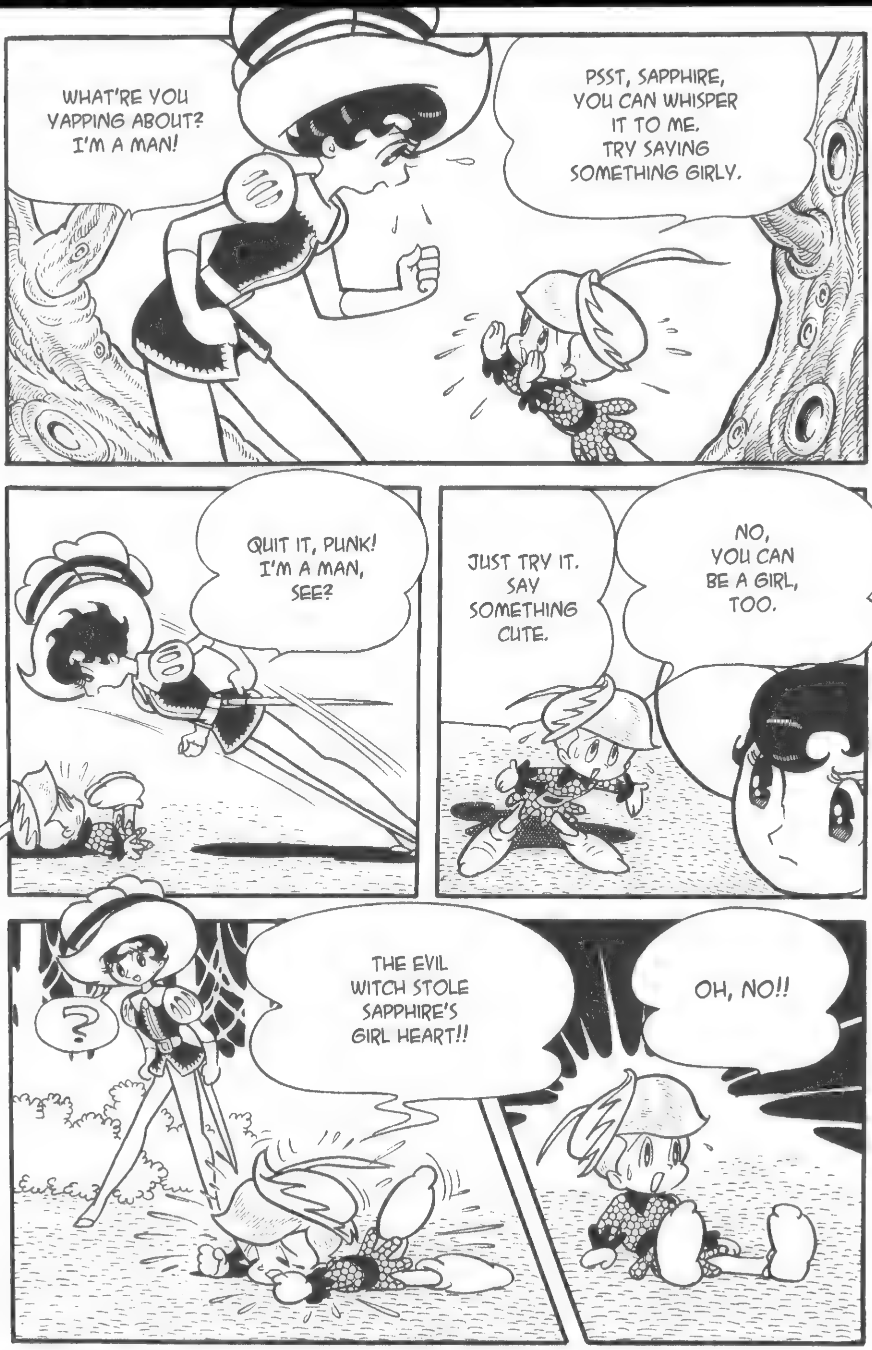

ARE WE ALL MET? LOOK YOU WELL. I SHALL REMOVE THE PRINCE'S GIRL HEART.
IT'S TIME, SAPPHIRE. PREPARE YE.
O TREE, MAKE AN ALTAR FOR ME!
WHOA
WOW
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
O PHANTOM SWORD! SLICE OPEN SAPPHIRE'S CHEST...
BWOM

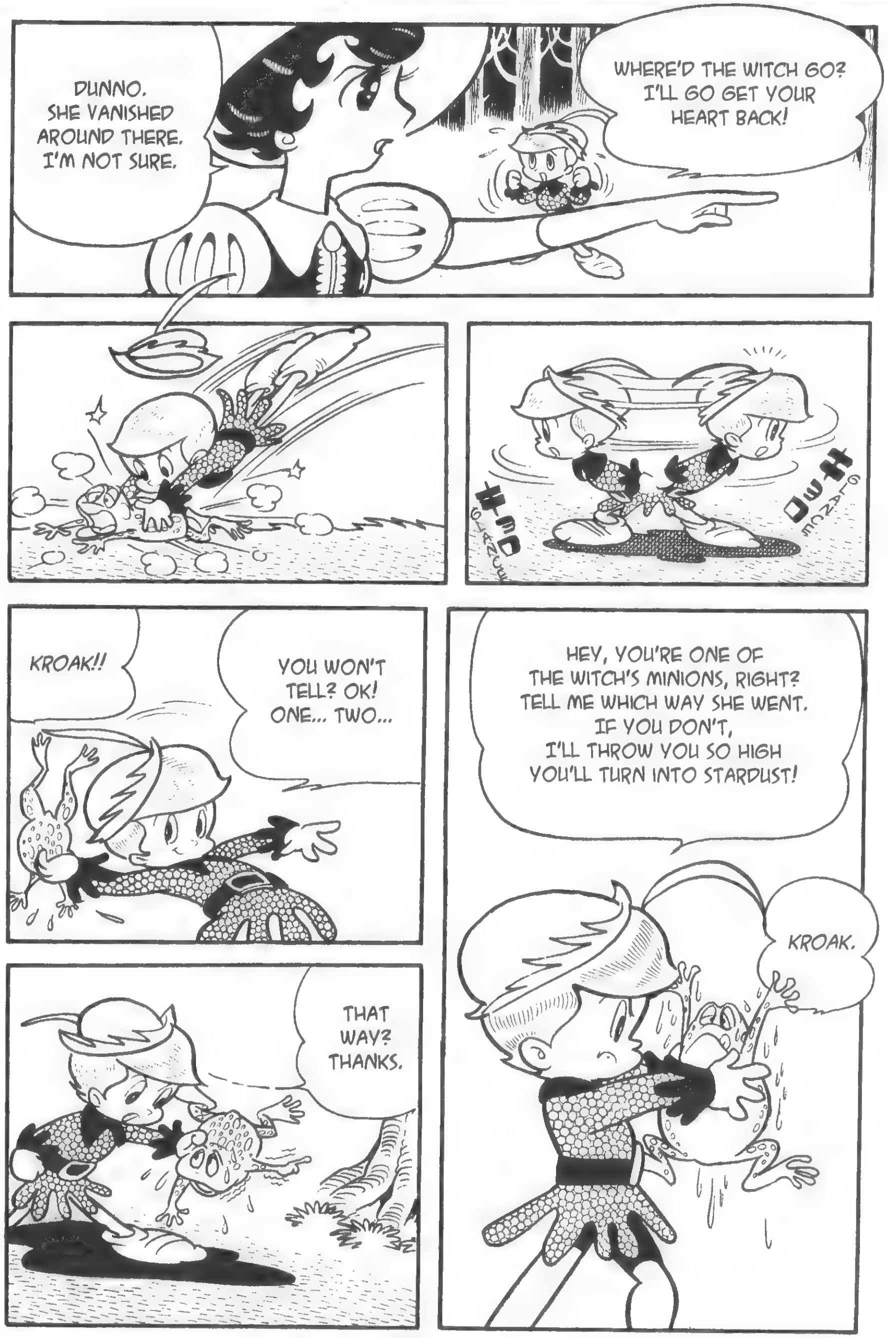

AND SNATCH OUT HER GIRL HEART!
AAAAH!
HO HO HO HO!
IT'S MINE, MINE! I'VE TAKEN SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART!
GOOD, VERY GOOD! I'LL GIVE THIS TO MY DAUGHTER SO SHE'LL BECOME STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL AND SWEET.
SORRY, BUT YOU'RE NO LONGER A GIRL, SO YOU CAN'T PLEDGE YOUR LOVE TO PRINCE FRANZ! HO HO!

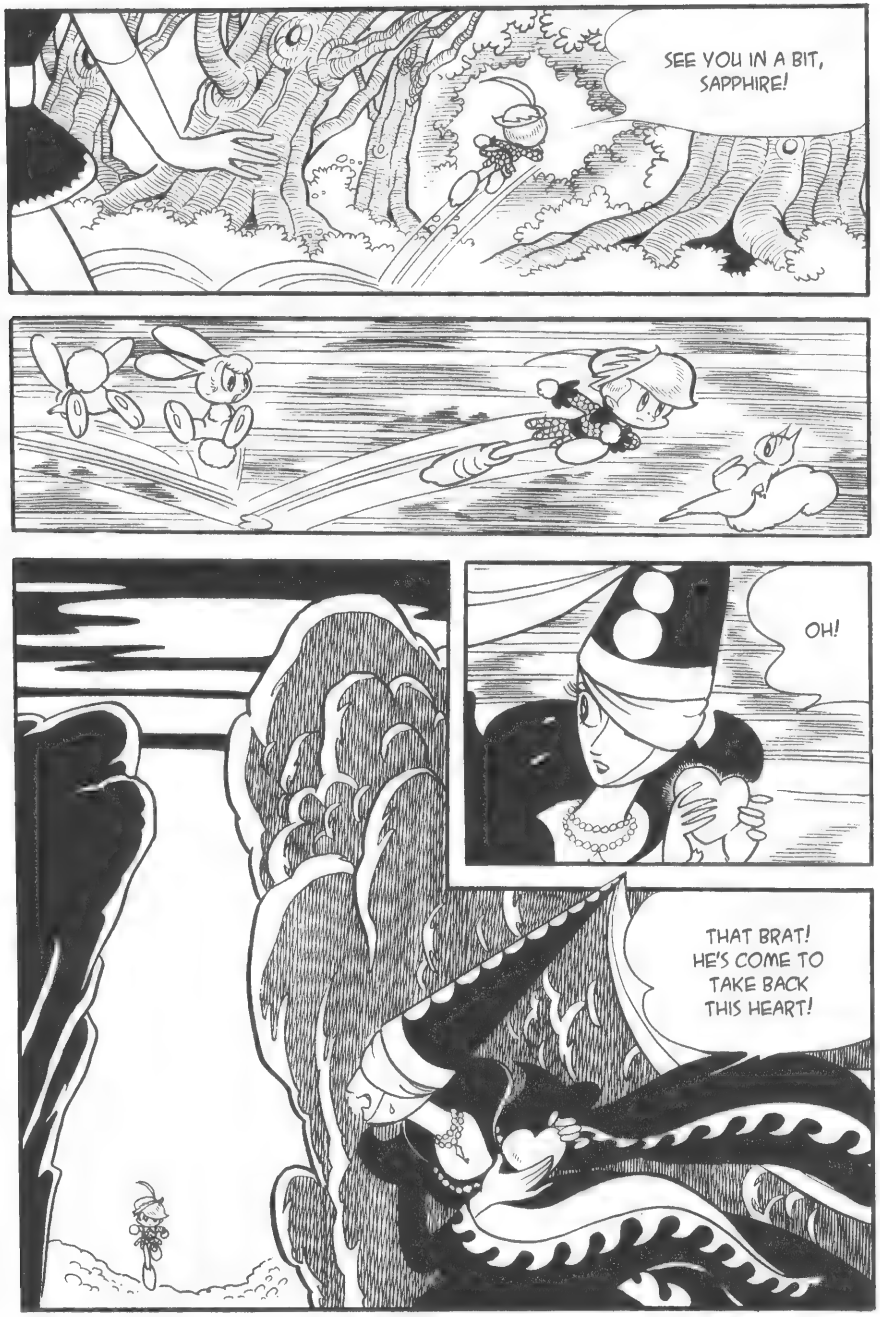

HE'LL MARRY MY DAUGHTER INSTEAD!
ARGH!!
M-MY EYE!
MY EYE...
POOF
OW... OW...
WAIT, WITCH!!

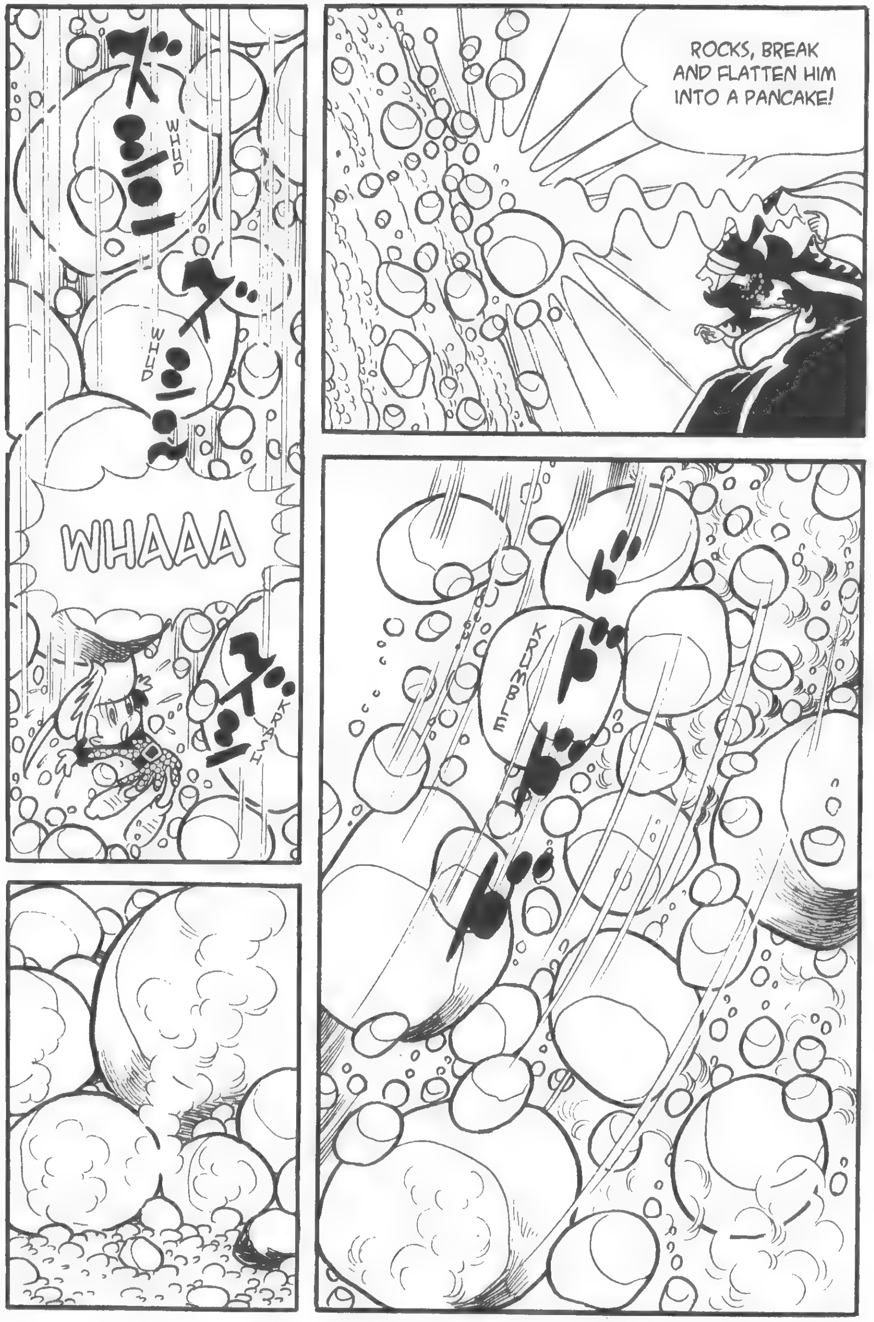

FWASH
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME, SAPPHIRE!
OH, IT HURTS!
AH... THE MIST SUDDENLY CLEARED.
SAPPHIRE'S VOICE!
HELLO! ANYONE THERE? PRINCE FRANZ! CAPTAIN BLOOD!

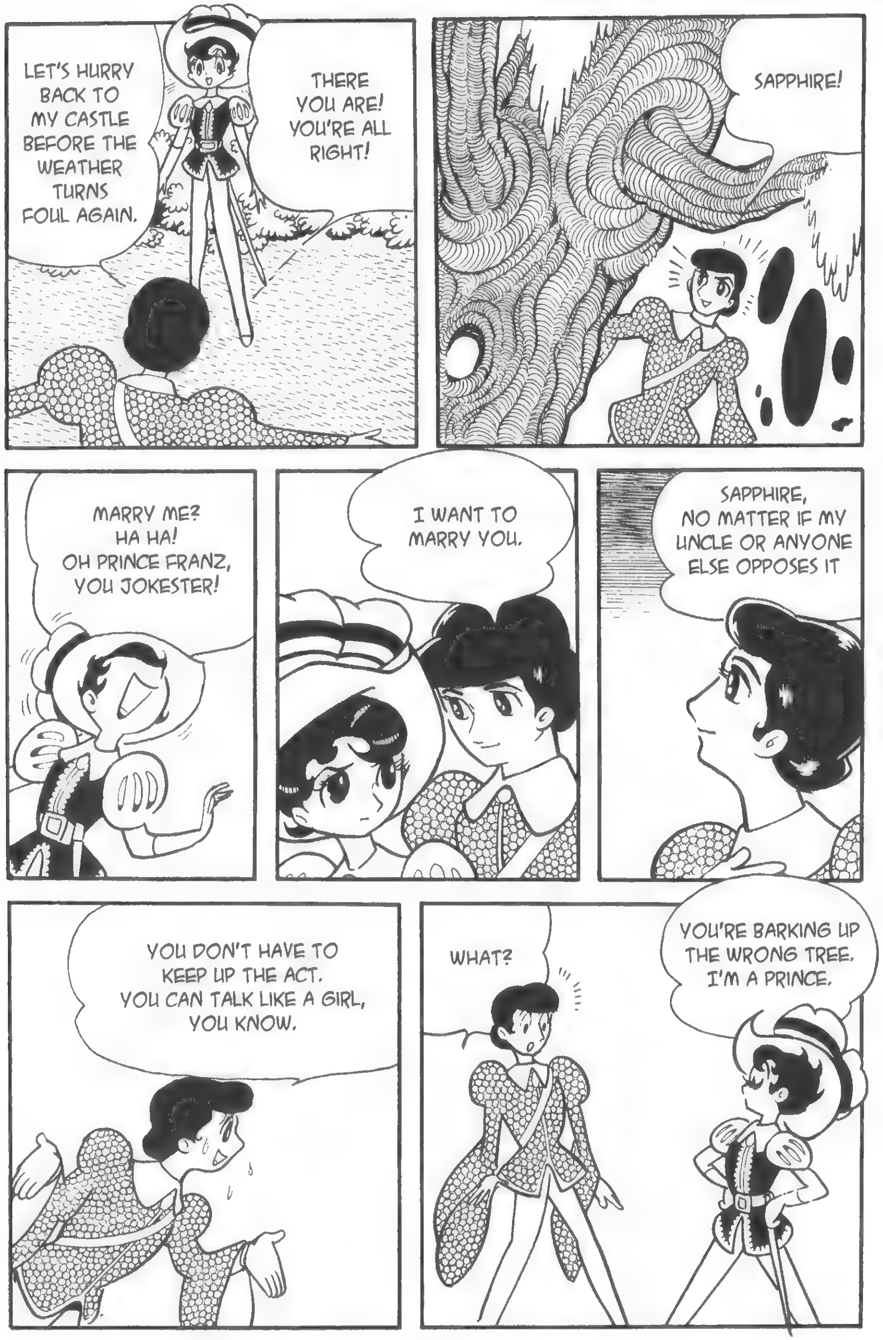

I'M COMING!
OH, HEY TINK. WHERE WERE YOU?
SO GLAD I FOUND YOU! EVERYONE SCATTERED IN THE RAIN.
THE WITCH CAUSED THE STORM.
WHAT? THE WITCH?
BUT DON'T WORRY, KIDDO. SHE'S GONE.
SAPPHIRE ...?
SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU.
IT'S LIKE YOU'VE BECOME A BOY.
GASP
OH, NO. DID THE WITCH STEAL YOUR GIRL HEART?

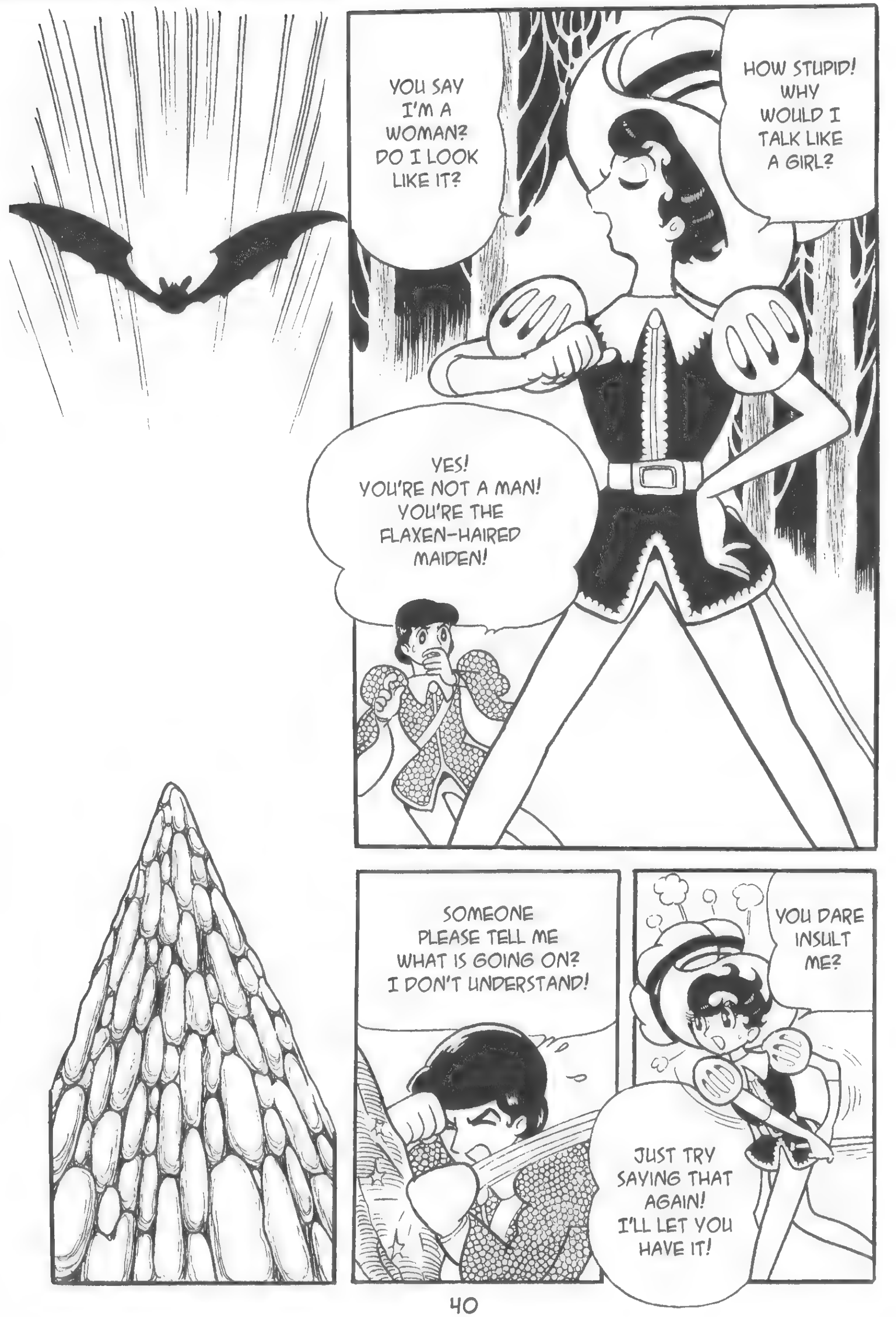

PSST, SAPPHIRE, YOU CAN WHISPER IT TO ME. TRY SAYING SOMETHING GIRLY.
WHAT'RE YOU YAPPING ABOUT? I'M A MAN!
NO, YOU CAN BE A GIRL, TOO.
JUST TRY IT. SAY SOMETHING CUTE.
QUIT IT, PUNK! I'M A MAN, SEE?
OH, NO!!
THE EVIL WITCH STOLE SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART!!
?

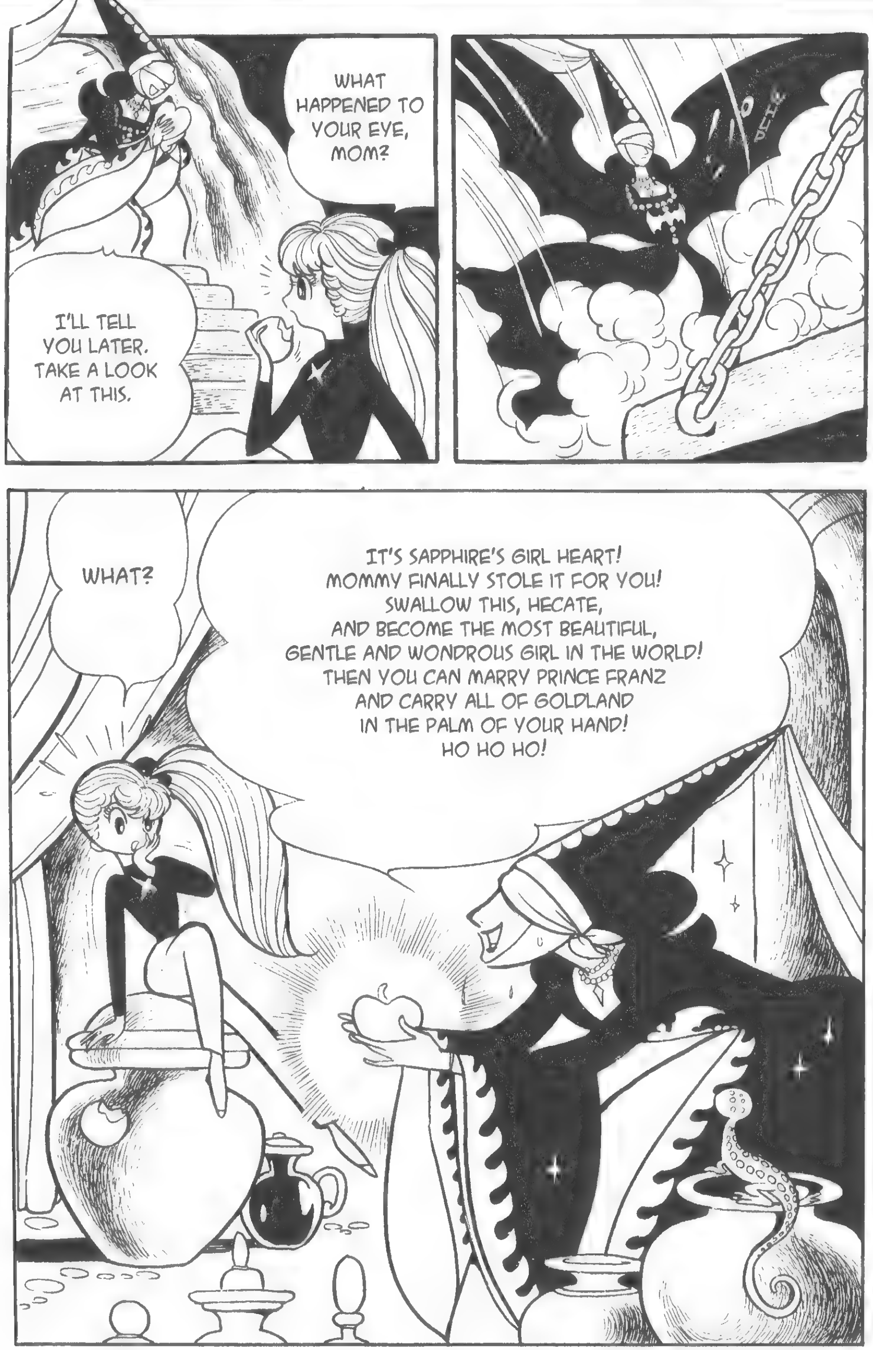

WHERE'D THE WITCH GO? I'LL GO GET YOUR HEART BACK!
DUNNO. SHE VANISHED AROUND THERE. I'M NOT SURE.
キョロ GLANCE
キョロ GLANCE
HEY, YOU'RE ONE OF THE WITCH'S MINIONS, RIGHT? TELL ME WHICH WAY SHE WENT. IF YOU DON'T, I'LL THROW YOU SO HIGH YOU'LL TURN INTO STARDUST!
KROAK.
YOU WON'T TELL? OK! ONE... TWO...
KROAK!!
THAT WAY? THANKS.


SEE YOU IN A BIT, SAPPHIRE!
OH!
THAT BRAT! HE'S COME TO TAKE BACK THIS HEART!


ROCKS, BREAK AND FLATTEN HIM INTO A PANCAKE!
ズシーン
WHUD
ズシーン
WHUD
WHAAA
ズシーン
KRASH
ドドドド
KRUMBLE

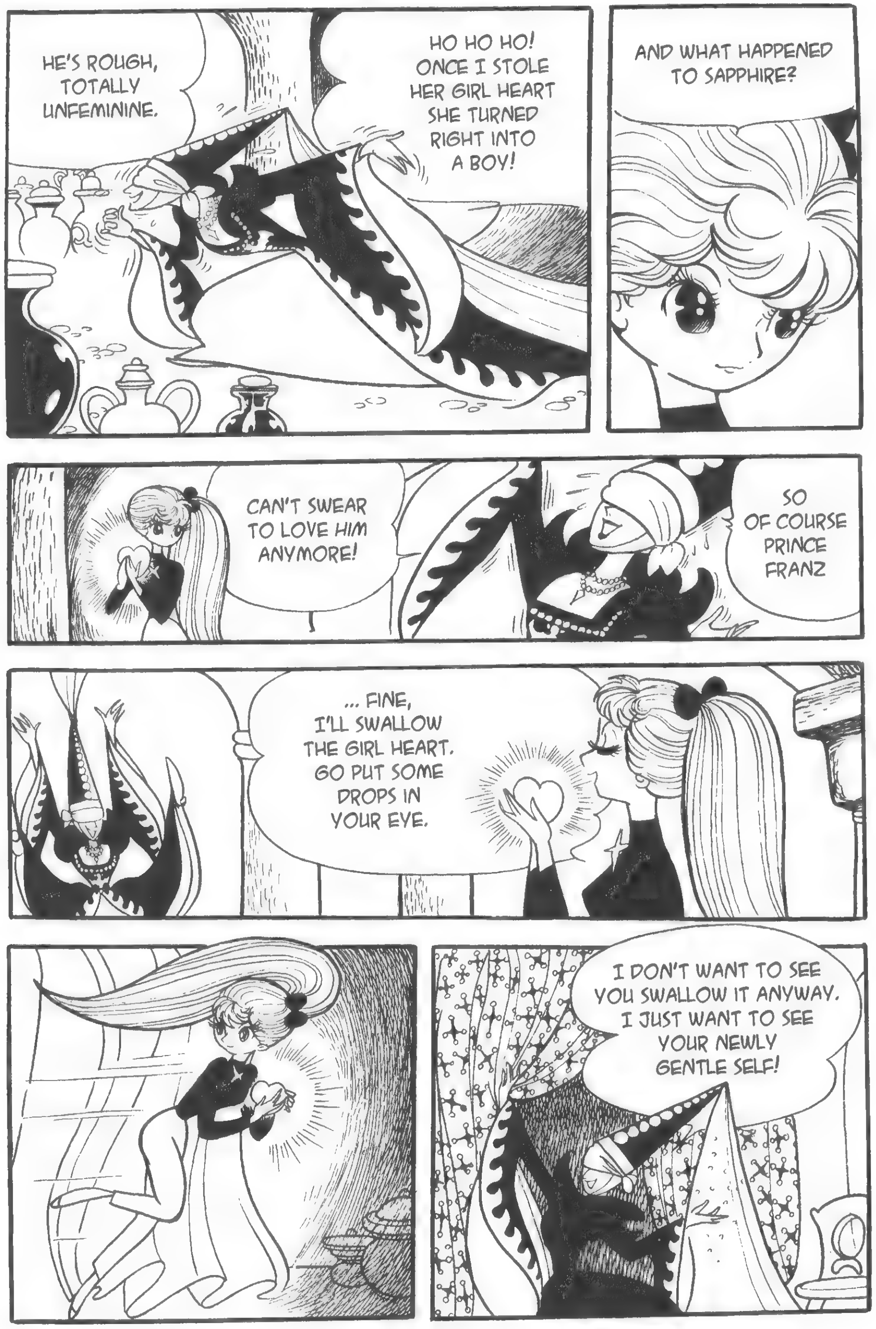

SAPPHIRE!
THERE YOU ARE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT!
LET'S HURRY BACK TO MY CASTLE BEFORE THE WEATHER TURNS FOUL AGAIN.
SAPPHIRE, NO MATTER IF MY UNCLE OR ANYONE ELSE OPPOSES IT
I WANT TO MARRY YOU.
MARRY ME? HA HA! OH PRINCE FRANZ, YOU JOKESTER!
YOU'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE. I'M A PRINCE.
WHAT?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO KEEP UP THE ACT. YOU CAN TALK LIKE A GIRL, YOU KNOW.

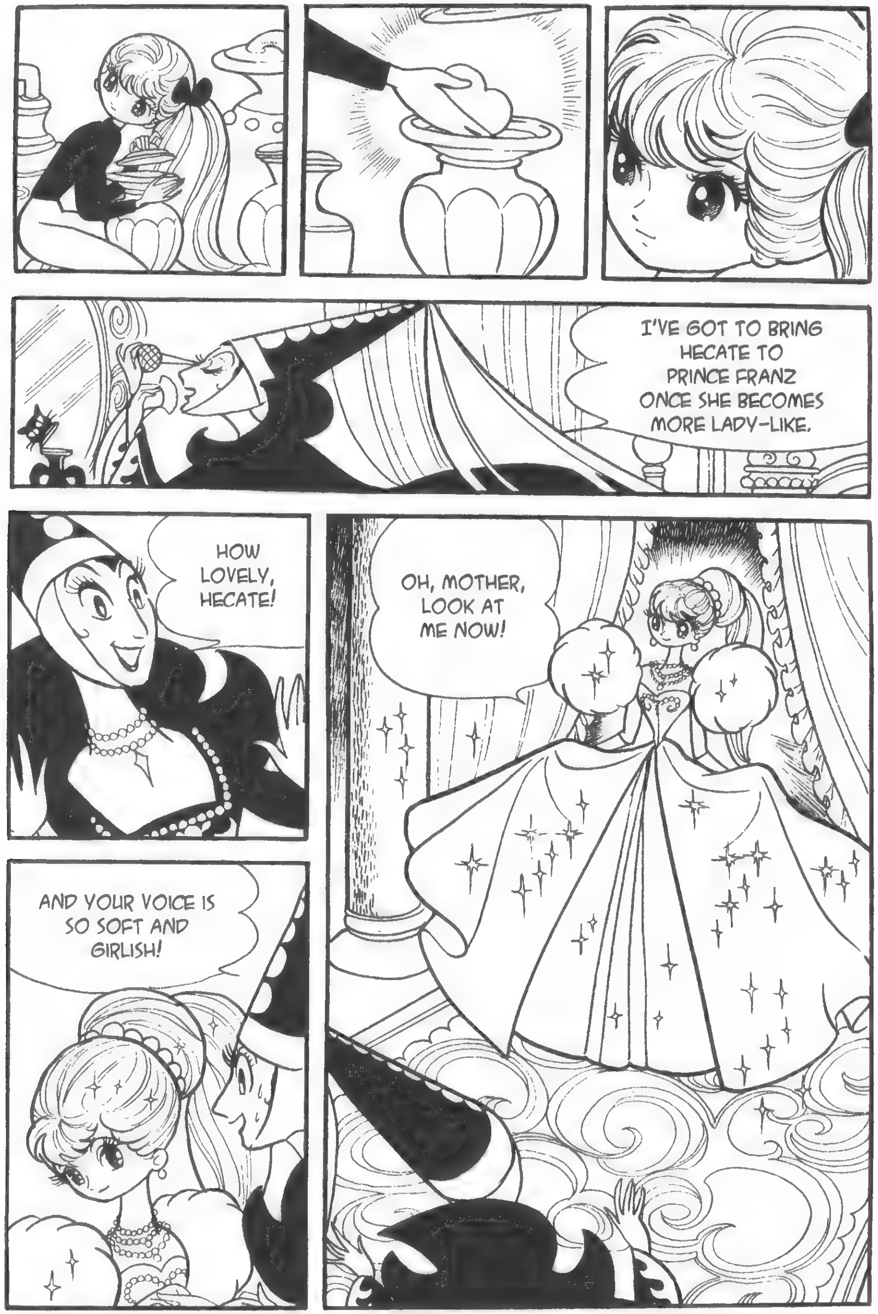

HOW STUPID! WHY WOULD I TALK LIKE A GIRL?
YOU SAY I'M A WOMAN? DO I LOOK LIKE IT?
YES! YOU'RE NOT A MAN! YOU'RE THE FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN!
YOU DARE INSULT ME?
JUST TRY SAYING THAT AGAIN! I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT!
SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME WHAT IS GOING ON? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

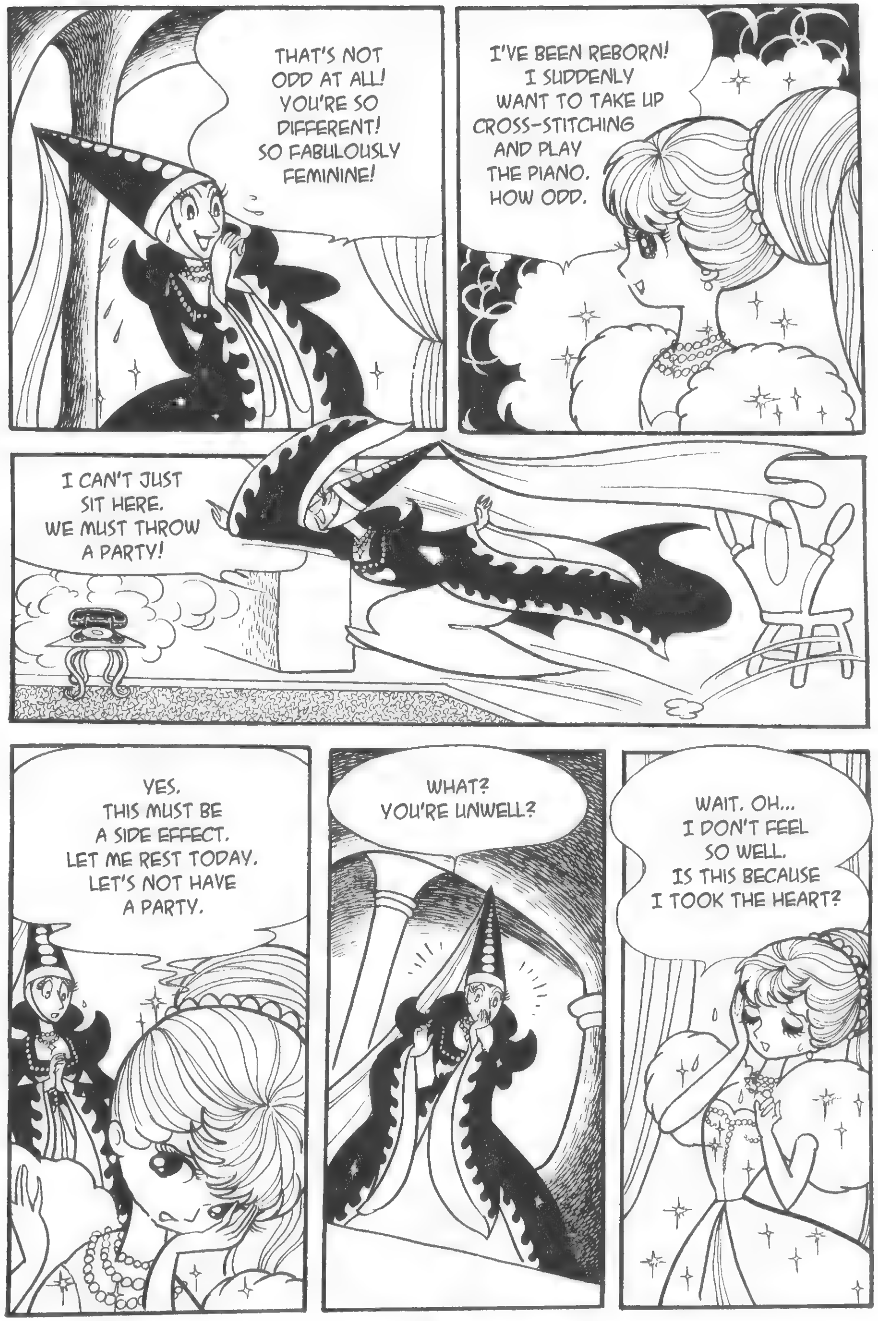

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE, MOM?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
IT'S SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART! MOMMY FINALLY STOLE IT FOR YOU! SWALLOW THIS, HECATE, AND BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE AND WONDROUS GIRL IN THE WORLD! THEN YOU CAN MARRY PRINCE FRANZ AND CARRY ALL OF GOLDLAND IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND! HO HO HO!
WHAT?

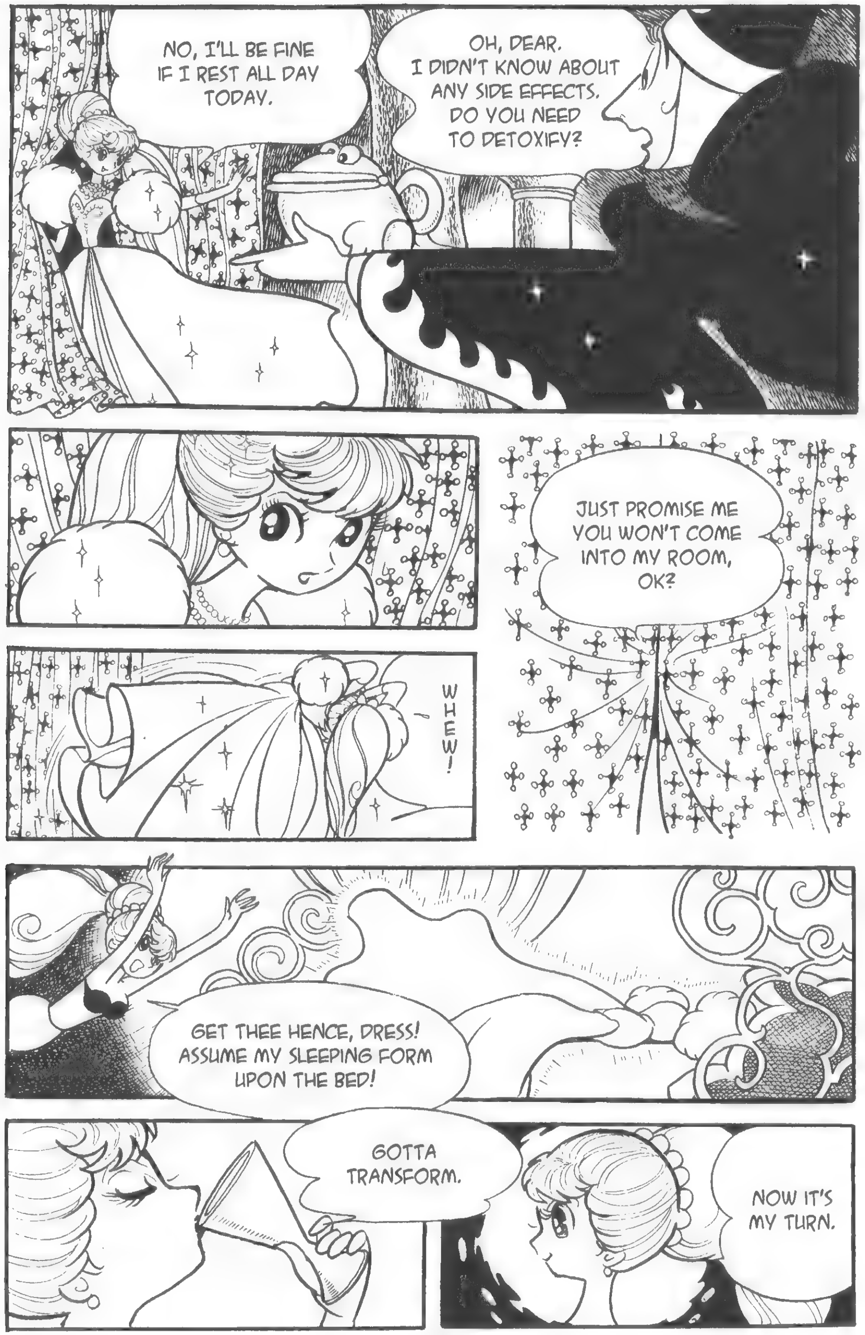
Chapter 18

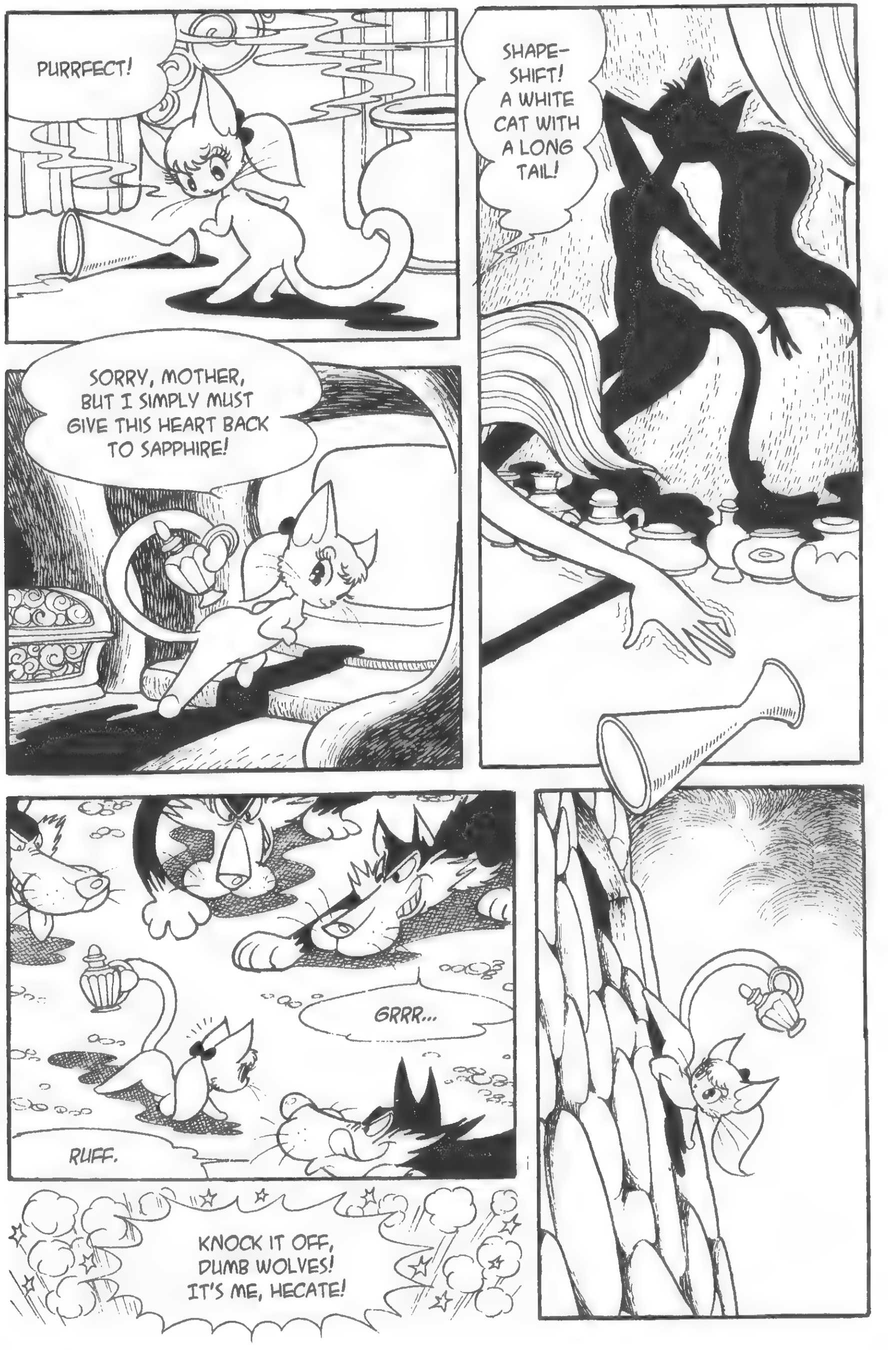
The Kitten and the Angel

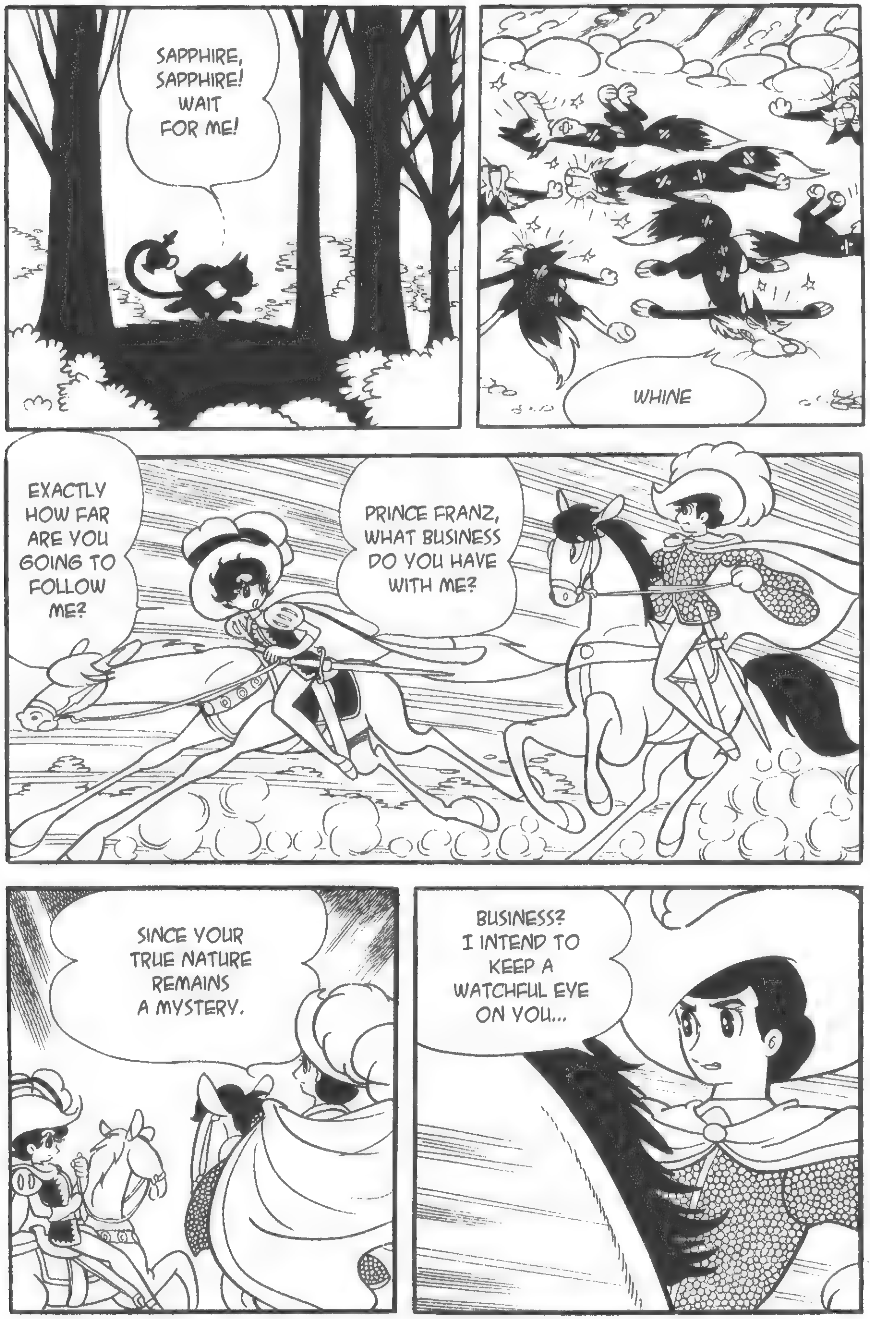

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO SAPPHIRE?
HO HO HO! ONCE I STOLE HER GIRL HEART SHE TURNED RIGHT INTO A BOY!
HE'S ROUGH, TOTALLY UNFEMININE.
SO OF COURSE PRINCE FRANZ
CAN'T SWEAR TO LOVE HIM ANYMORE!
... FINE, I'LL SWALLOW THE GIRL HEART. GO PUT SOME DROPS IN YOUR EYE.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU SWALLOW IT ANYWAY. I JUST WANT TO SEE YOUR NEWLY GENTLE SELF!

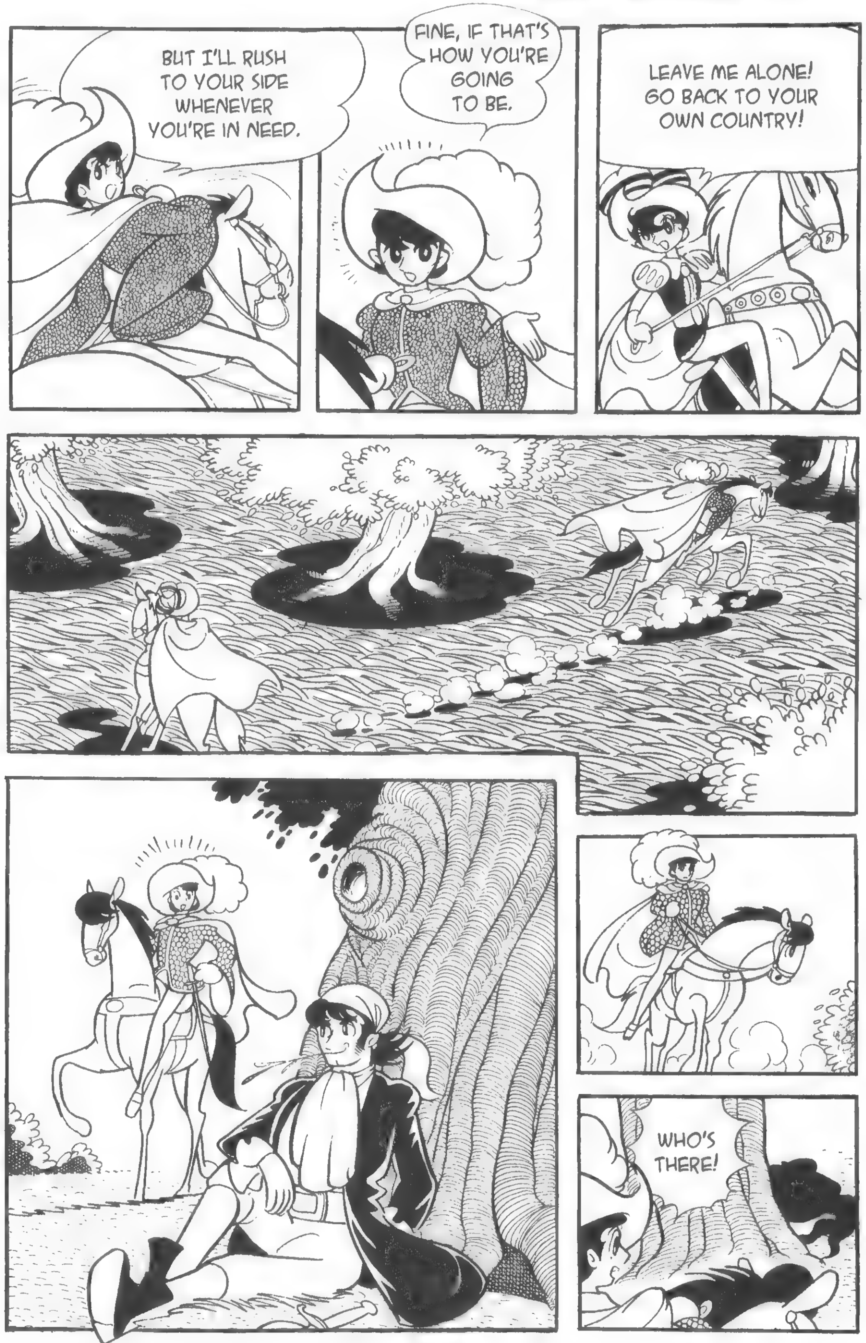

I'VE GOT TO BRING HECATE TO PRINCE FRANZ ONCE SHE BECOMES MORE LADY-LIKE.
OH, MOTHER, LOOK AT ME NOW!
HOW LOVELY, HECATE!
AND YOUR VOICE IS SO SOFT AND GIRLISH!

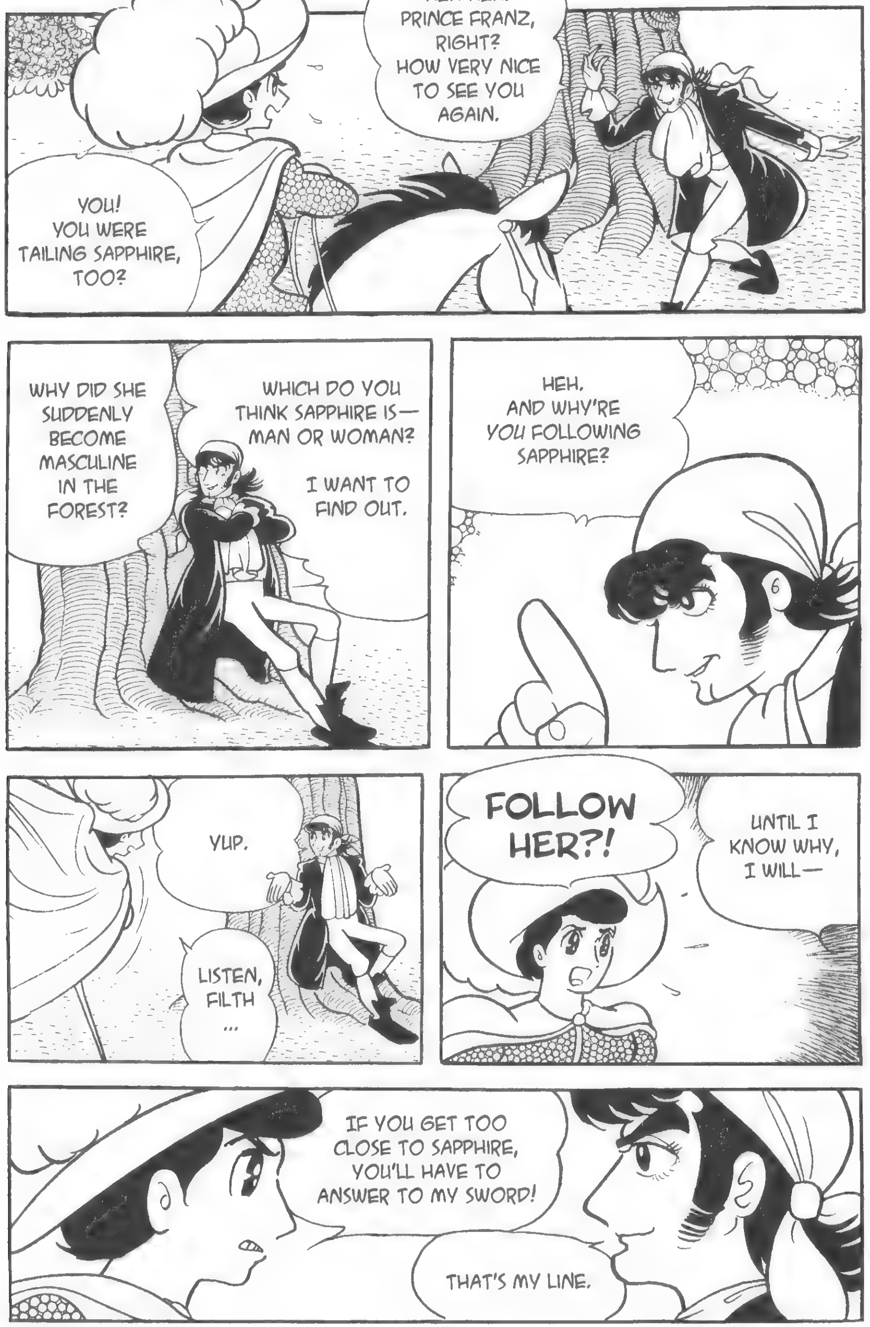

I'VE BEEN REBORN! I SUDDENLY WANT TO TAKE UP CROSS-STITCHING AND PLAY THE PIANO. HOW ODD.
THAT'S NOT ODD AT ALL! YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT! SO FABULOUSLY FEMININE!
I CAN'T JUST SIT HERE. WE MUST THROW A PARTY!
WAIT. OH... I DON'T FEEL SO WELL. IS THIS BECAUSE I TOOK THE HEART?
WHAT? YOU'RE UNWELL?
YES. THIS MUST BE A SIDE EFFECT. LET ME REST TODAY. LET'S NOT HAVE A PARTY.

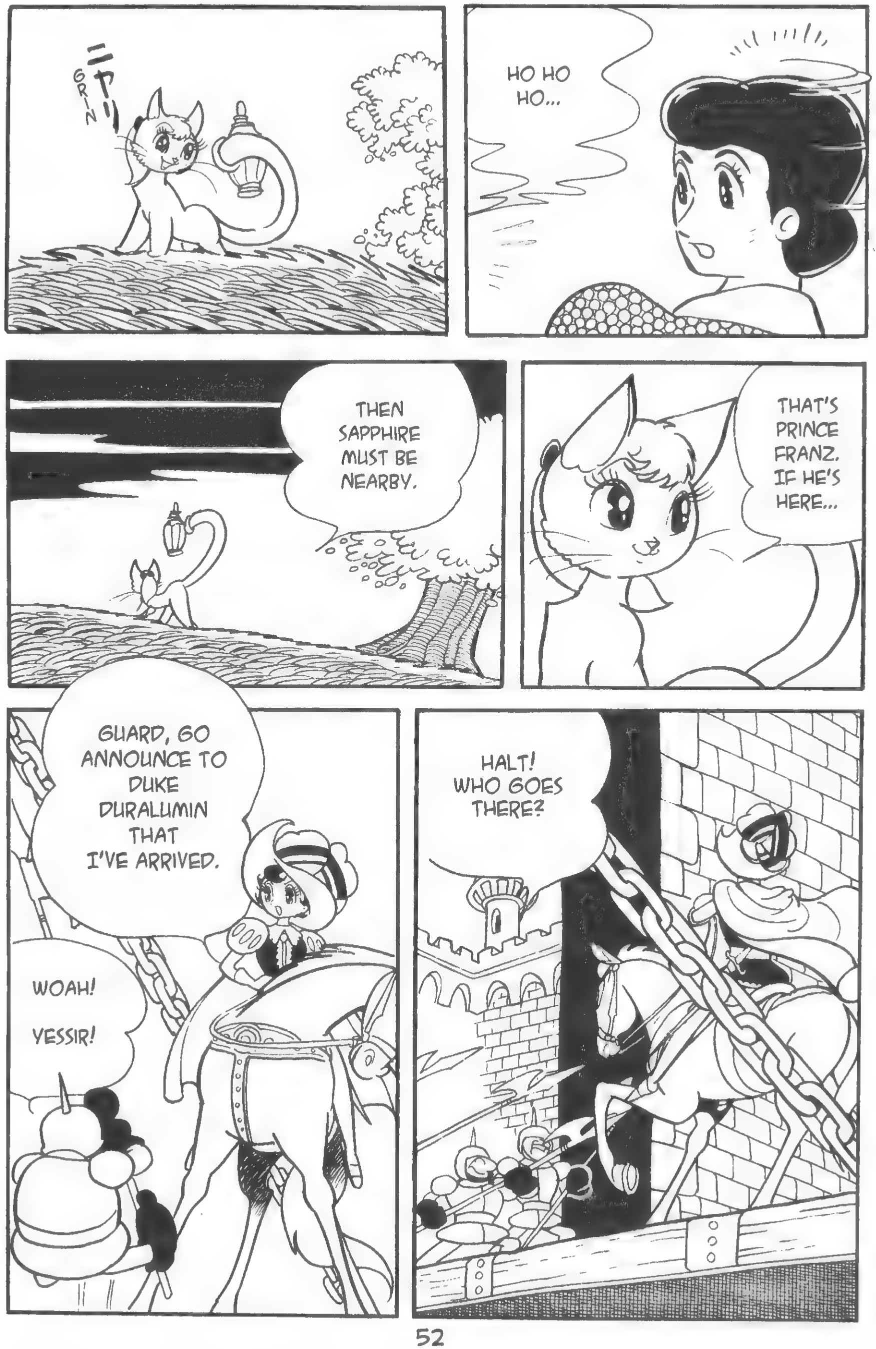

OH, DEAR. I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ANY SIDE EFFECTS. DO YOU NEED TO DETOXIFY?
NO, I'LL BE FINE IF I REST ALL DAY TODAY.
JUST PROMISE ME YOU WON'T COME INTO MY ROOM, OK?
WHEW!
GET THEE HENCE, DRESS! ASSUME MY SLEEPING FORM UPON THE BED!
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
GOTTA TRANSFORM.

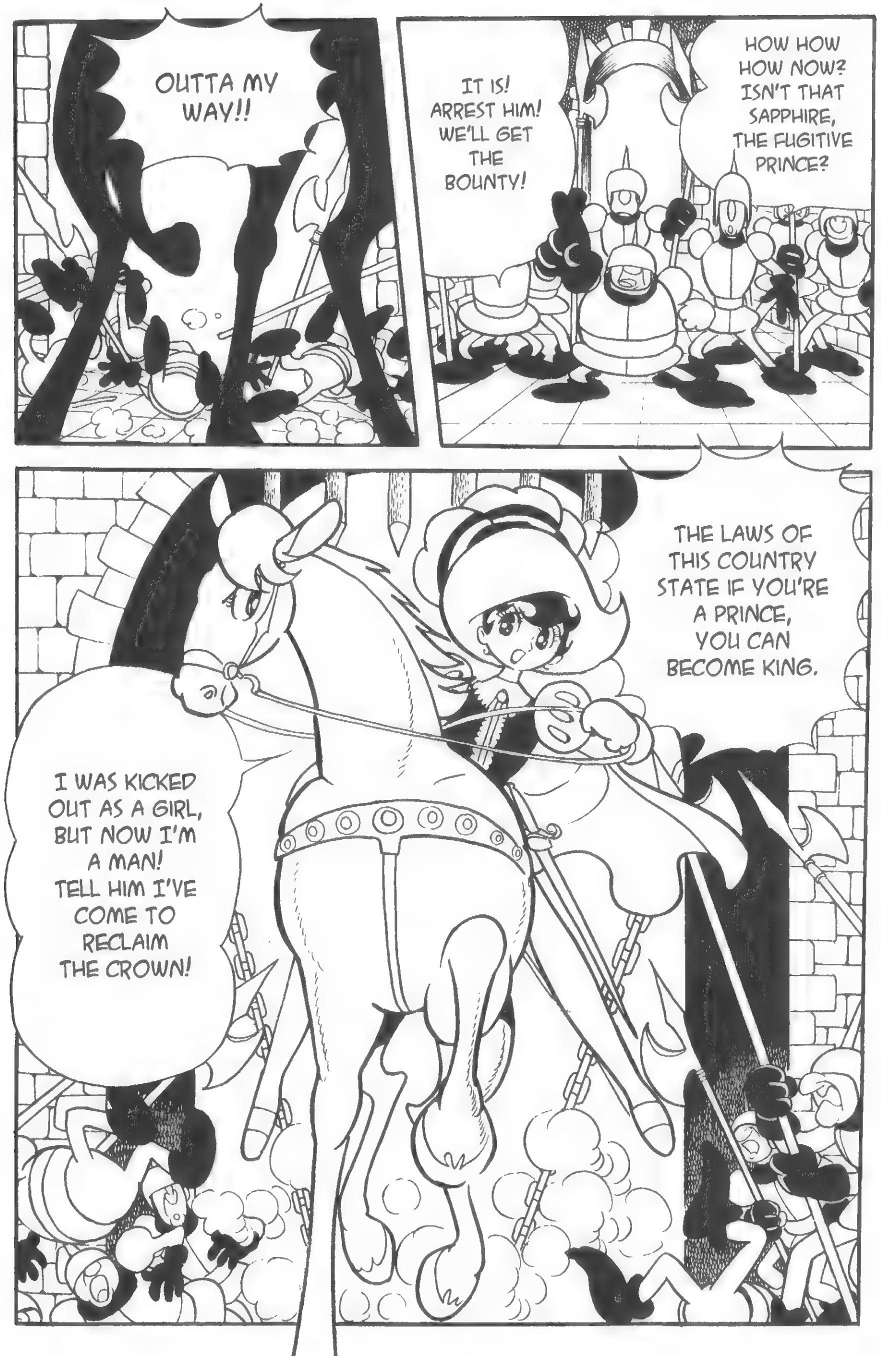

SHAPE-SHIFT! A WHITE CAT WITH A LONG TAIL!
PURRFECT!
SORRY, MOTHER, BUT I SIMPLY MUST GIVE THIS HEART BACK TO SAPPHIRE!
GRRR...
RUFF.
KNOCK IT OFF, DUMB WOLVES! IT'S ME, HECATE!

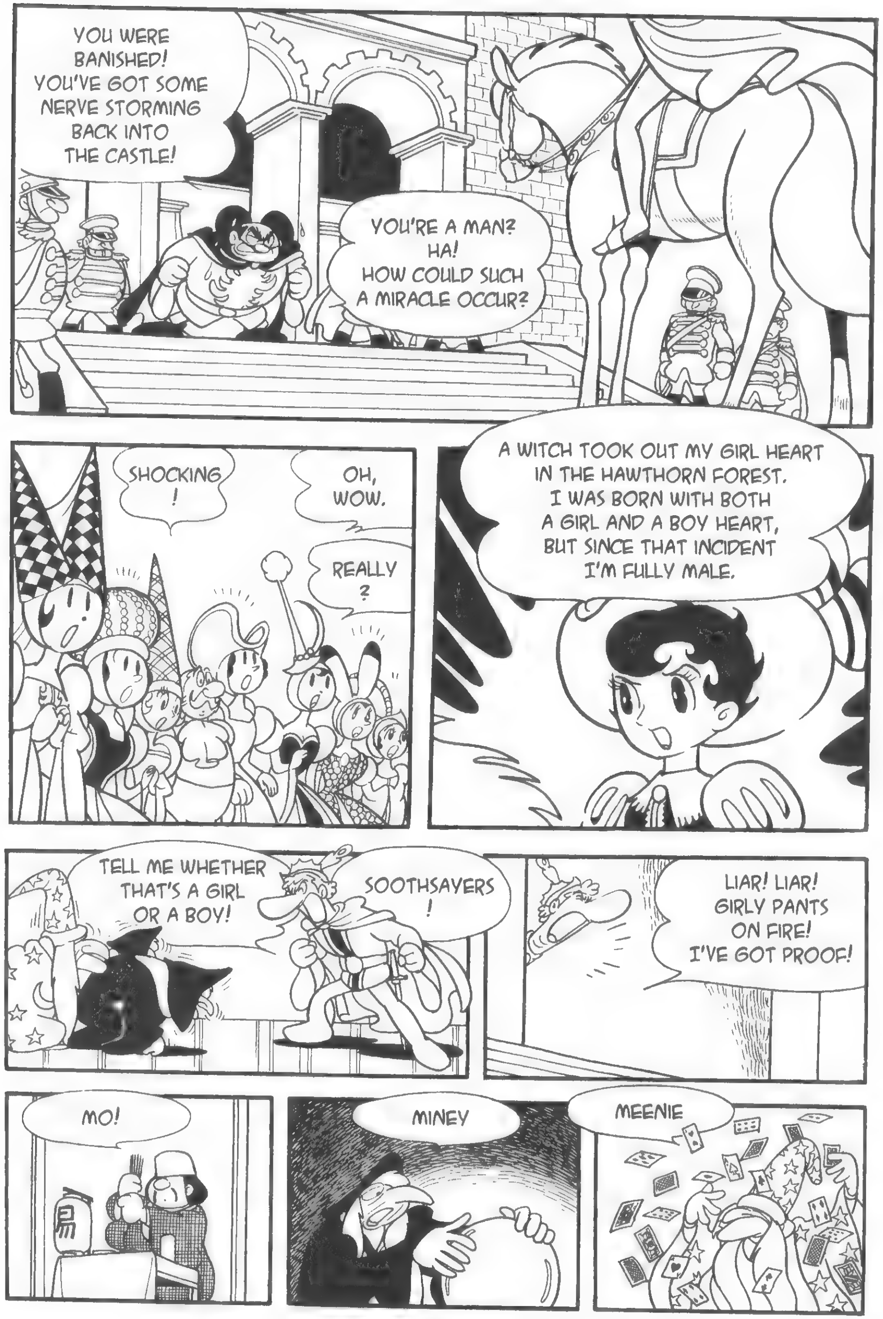

WHINE
SAPPHIRE, SAPPHIRE! WAIT FOR ME!
PRINCE FRANZ, WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH ME?
EXACTLY HOW FAR ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW ME?
BUSINESS? I INTEND TO KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON YOU...
SINCE YOUR TRUE NATURE REMAINS A MYSTERY.

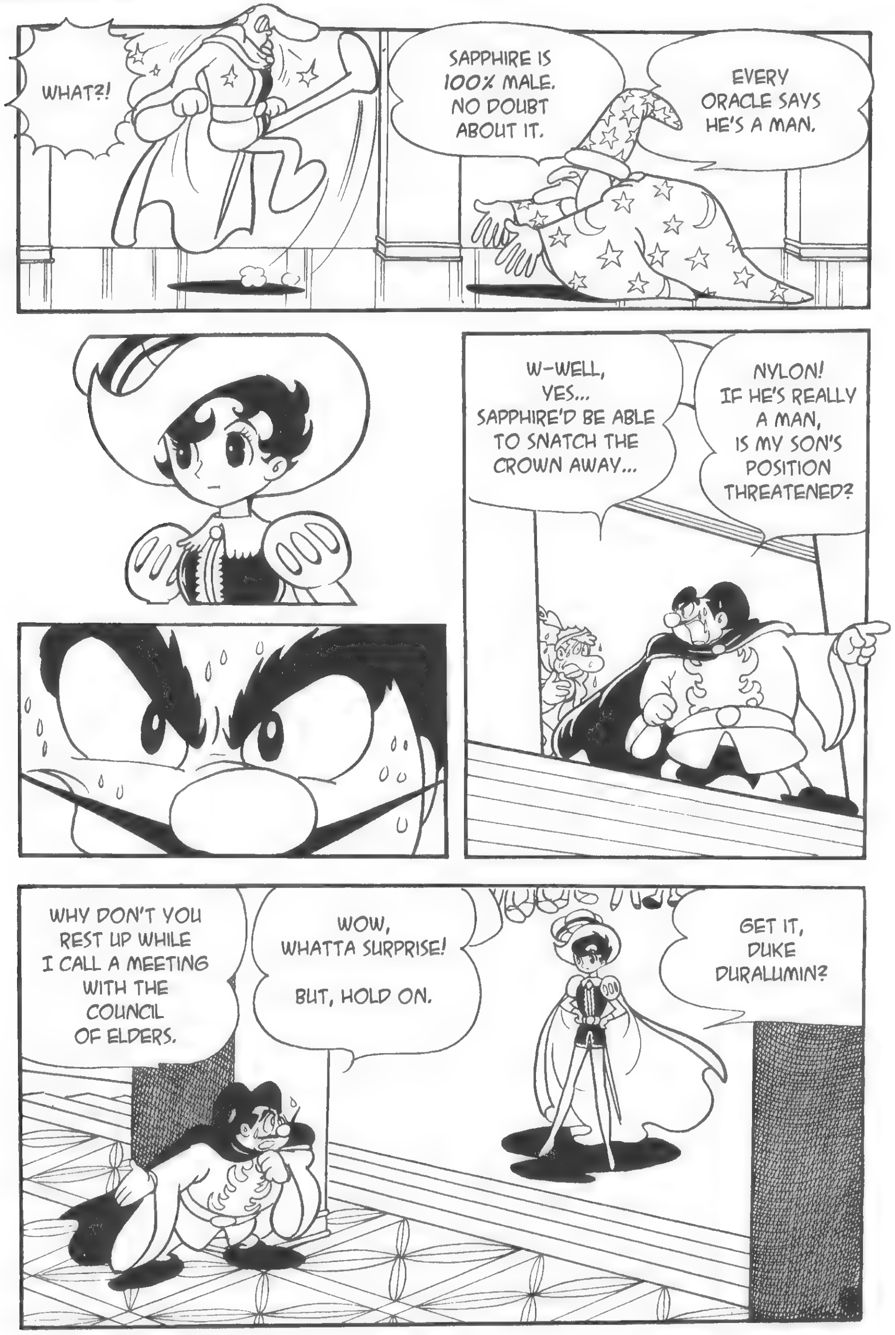

LEAVE ME ALONE! GO BACK TO YOUR OWN COUNTRY!
FINE, IF THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE.
BUT I'LL RUSH TO YOUR SIDE WHENEVER YOU'RE IN NEED.
WHO'S THERE!

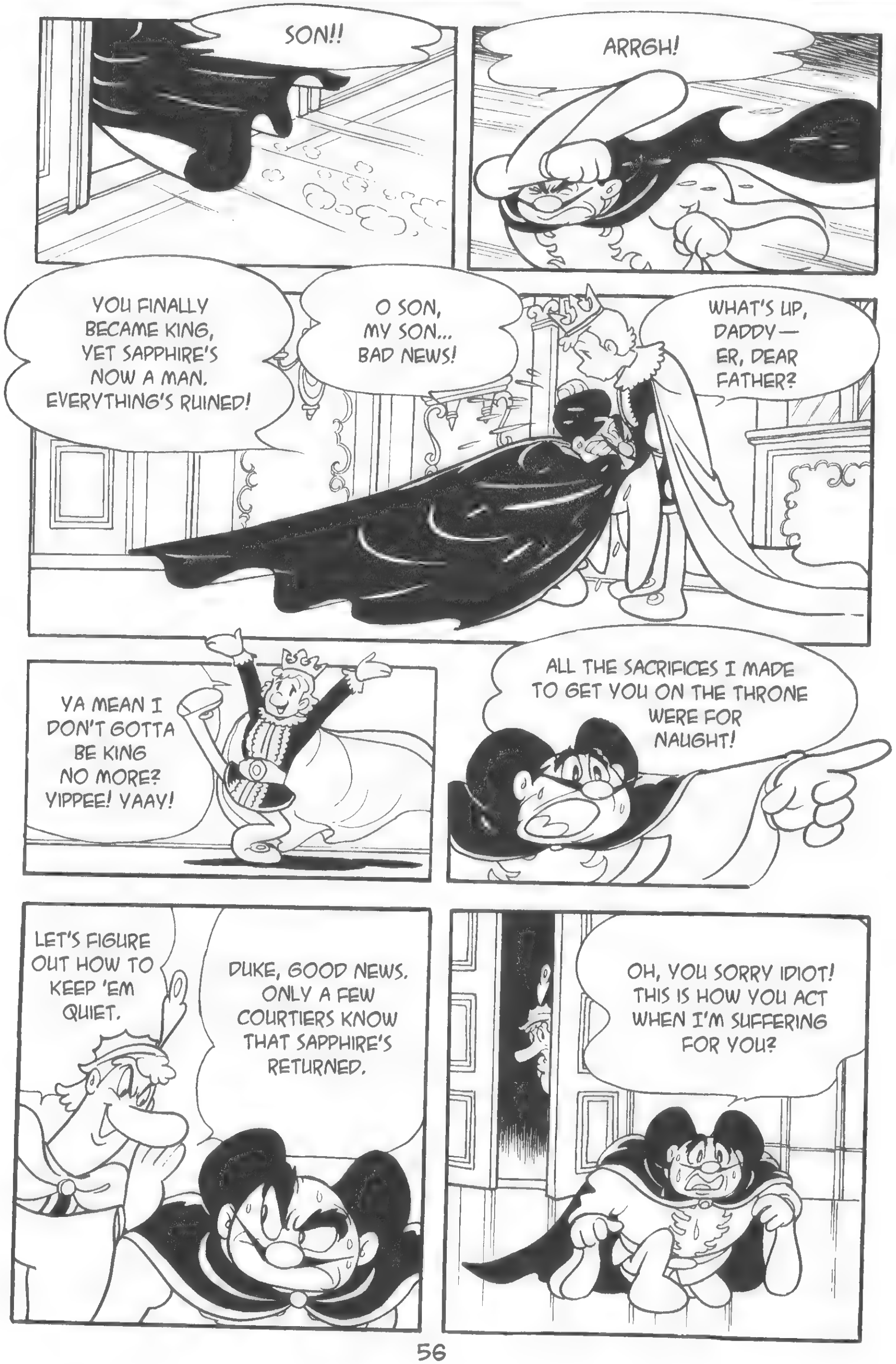

HEH HEH! PRINCE FRANZ, RIGHT? HOW VERY NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU! YOU WERE TAILING SAPPHIRE, TOO?
HEH. AND WHY'RE *YOU* FOLLOWING SAPPHIRE?
WHICH DO YOU THINK SAPPHIRE IS— MAN OR WOMAN?
I WANT TO FIND OUT.
WHY DID SHE SUDDENLY BECOME MASCULINE IN THE FOREST?
UNTIL I KNOW WHY, I WILL—
FOLLOW HER?!
YUP.
LISTEN, FILTH ...
IF YOU GET TOO CLOSE TO SAPPHIRE, YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO MY SWORD!
THAT'S MY LINE.

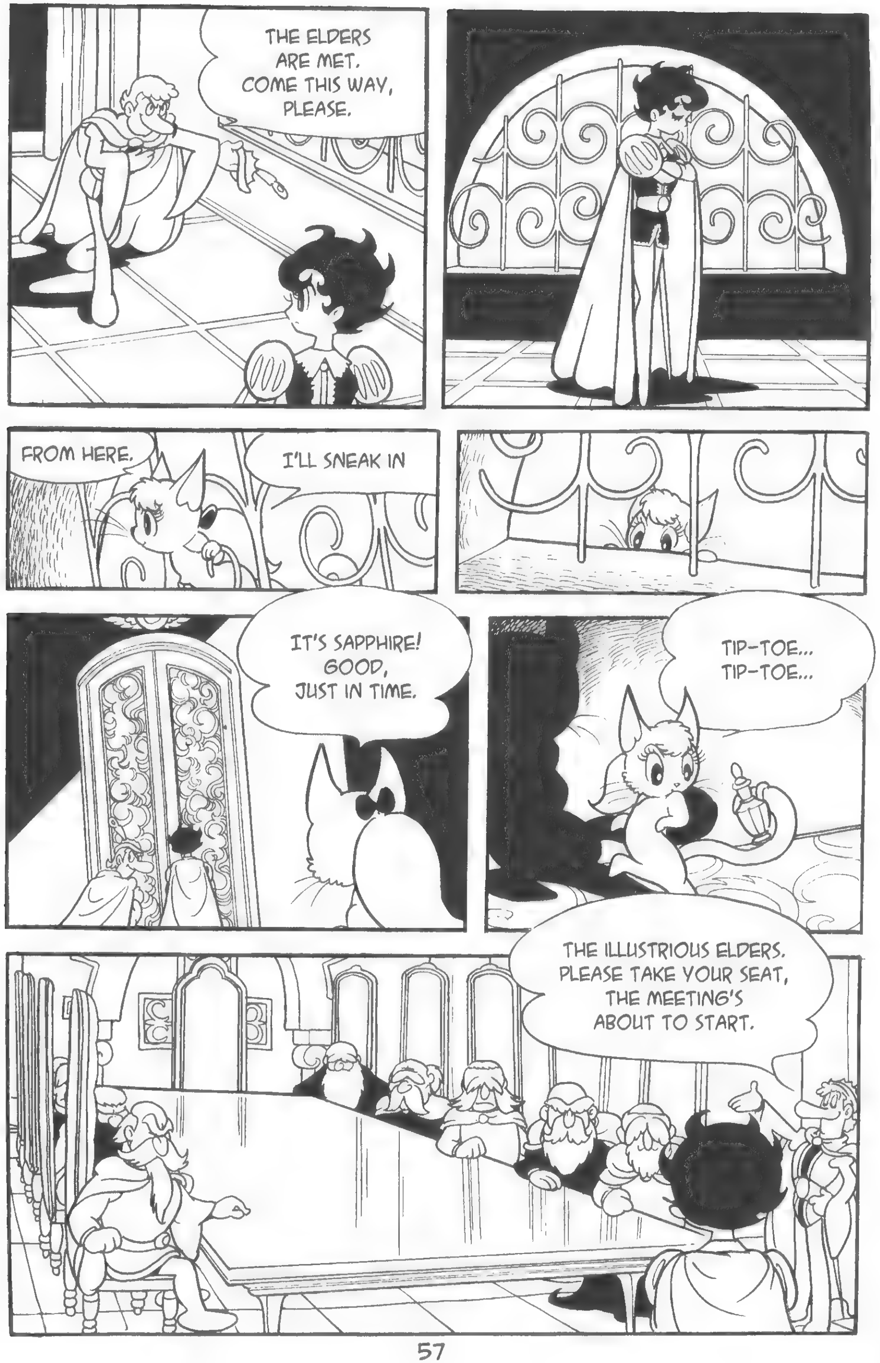

HO HO HO...
ニヤリ
GRIN
THAT'S PRINCE FRANZ. IF HE'S HERE...
THEN SAPPHIRE MUST BE NEARBY.
HALT! WHO GOES THERE?
GUARD, GO ANNOUNCE TO DUKE DURALUMIN THAT I'VE ARRIVED.
WOAH!
YESSIR!

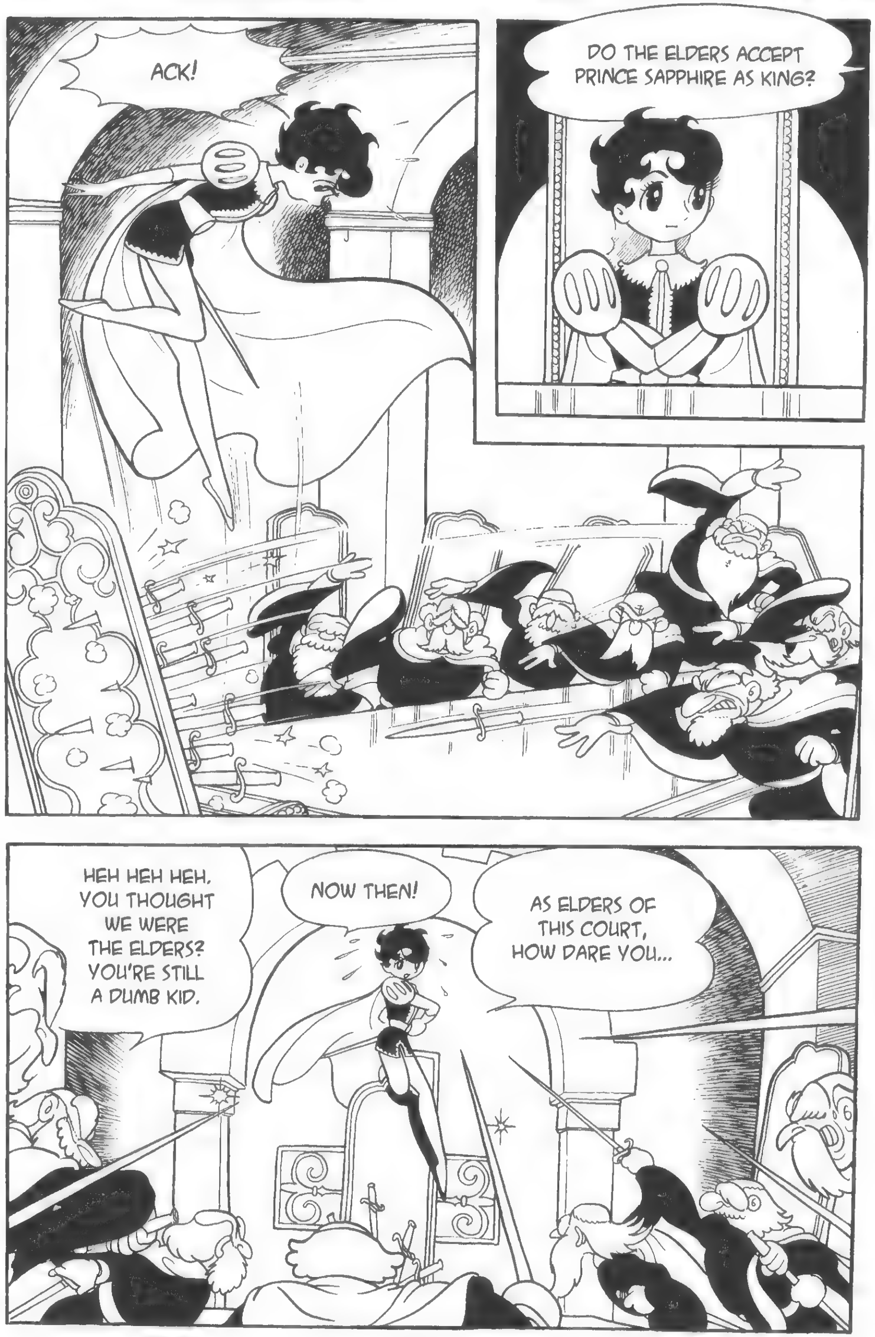

HOW HOW HOW NOW? ISN'T THAT SAPPHIRE, THE FUGITIVE PRINCE?
IT IS! ARREST HIM! WE'LL GET THE BOUNTY!
OUTTA MY WAY!!
THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY STATE IF YOU'RE A PRINCE, YOU CAN BECOME KING.
I WAS KICKED OUT AS A GIRL, BUT NOW I'M A MAN! TELL HIM I'VE COME TO RECLAIM THE CROWN!

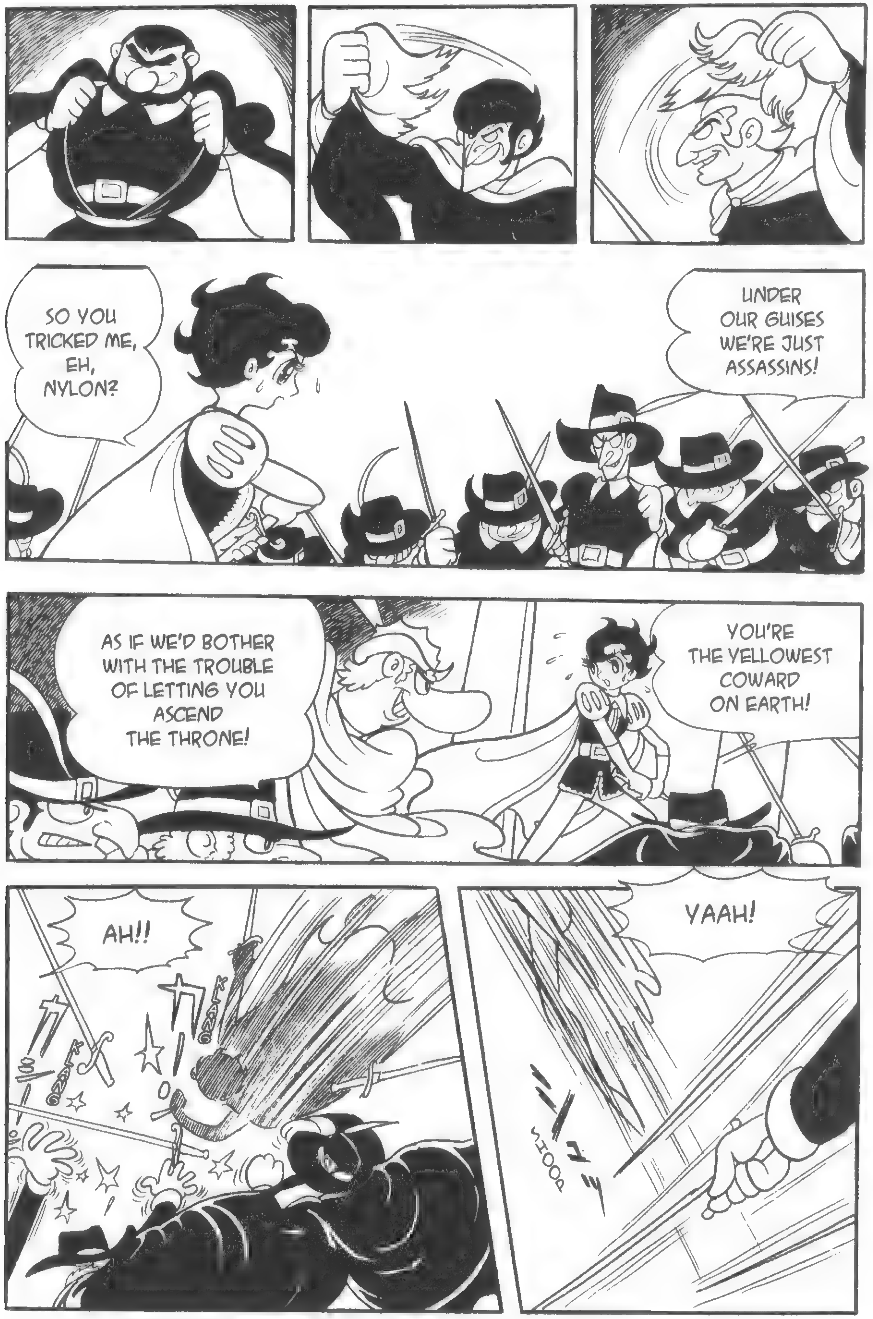

YOU WERE BANISHED! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE STORMING BACK INTO THE CASTLE!
YOU'RE A MAN? HA! HOW COULD SUCH A MIRACLE OCCUR?
A WITCH TOOK OUT MY GIRL HEART IN THE HAWTHORN FOREST. I WAS BORN WITH BOTH A GIRL AND A BOY HEART, BUT SINCE THAT INCIDENT I'M FULLY MALE.
OH, WOW.
REALLY?
SHOCKING!
LIAR! LIAR! GIRLY PANTS ON FIRE! I'VE GOT PROOF!
SOOTHSAYERS!
TELL ME WHETHER THAT'S A GIRL OR A BOY!
MEENIE
MINEY
MO!

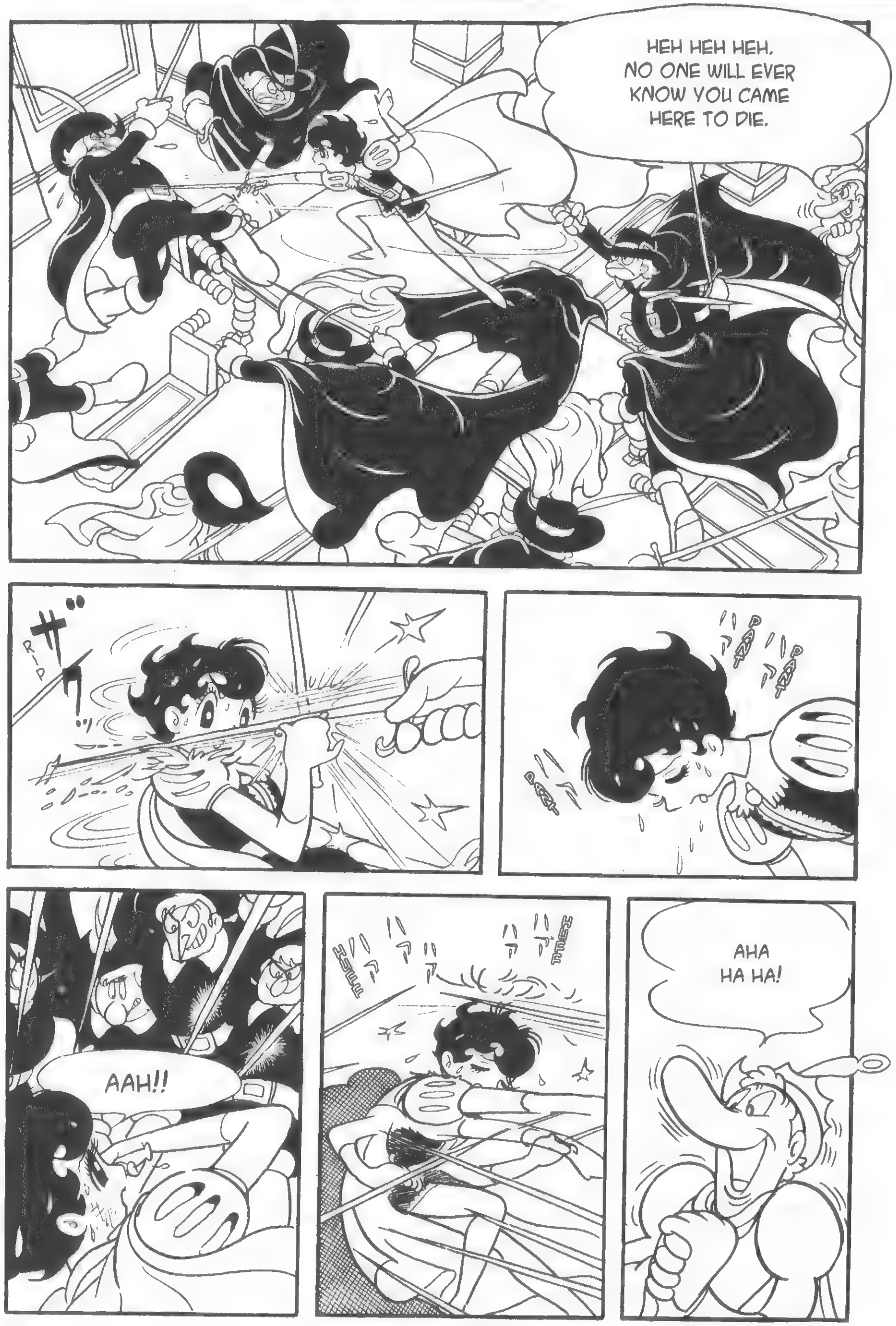

EVERY ORACLE SAYS HE'S A MAN.
SAPPHIRE IS 100% MALE. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
WHAT?!
NYLON! IF HE'S REALLY A MAN, IS MY SON'S POSITION THREATENED?
W-WELL, YES... SAPPHIRE'D BE ABLE TO SNATCH THE CROWN AWAY...
GET IT, DUKE DURALUMIN?
WOW, WHATTA SURPRISE! BUT, HOLD ON.
WHY DON'T YOU REST UP WHILE I CALL A MEETING WITH THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

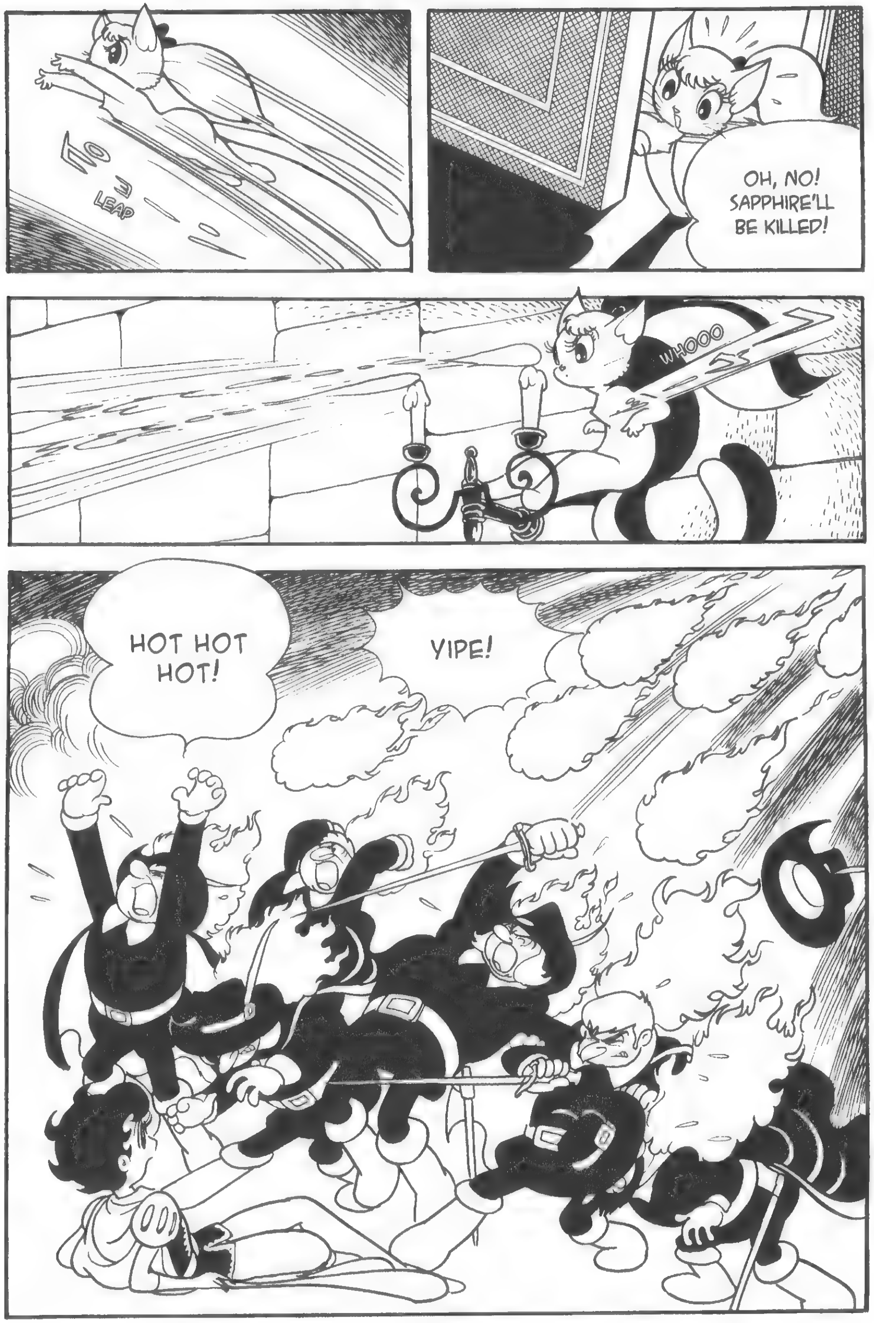

ARRGH!
SON!!
WHAT'S UP, DADDY— ER, DEAR FATHER?
O SON, MY SON... BAD NEWS!
YOU FINALLY BECAME KING, YET SAPPHIRE'S NOW A MAN. EVERYTHING'S RUINED!
ALL THE SACRIFICES I MADE TO GET YOU ON THE THRONE WERE FOR NAUGHT!
YA MEAN I DON'T GOTTA BE KING NO MORE? YIPPEE! YAAY!
OH, YOU SORRY IDIOT! THIS IS HOW YOU ACT WHEN I'M SUFFERING FOR YOU?
DUKE, GOOD NEWS. ONLY A FEW COURTIERS KNOW THAT SAPPHIRE'S RETURNED.
LET'S FIGURE OUT HOW TO KEEP 'EM QUIET.

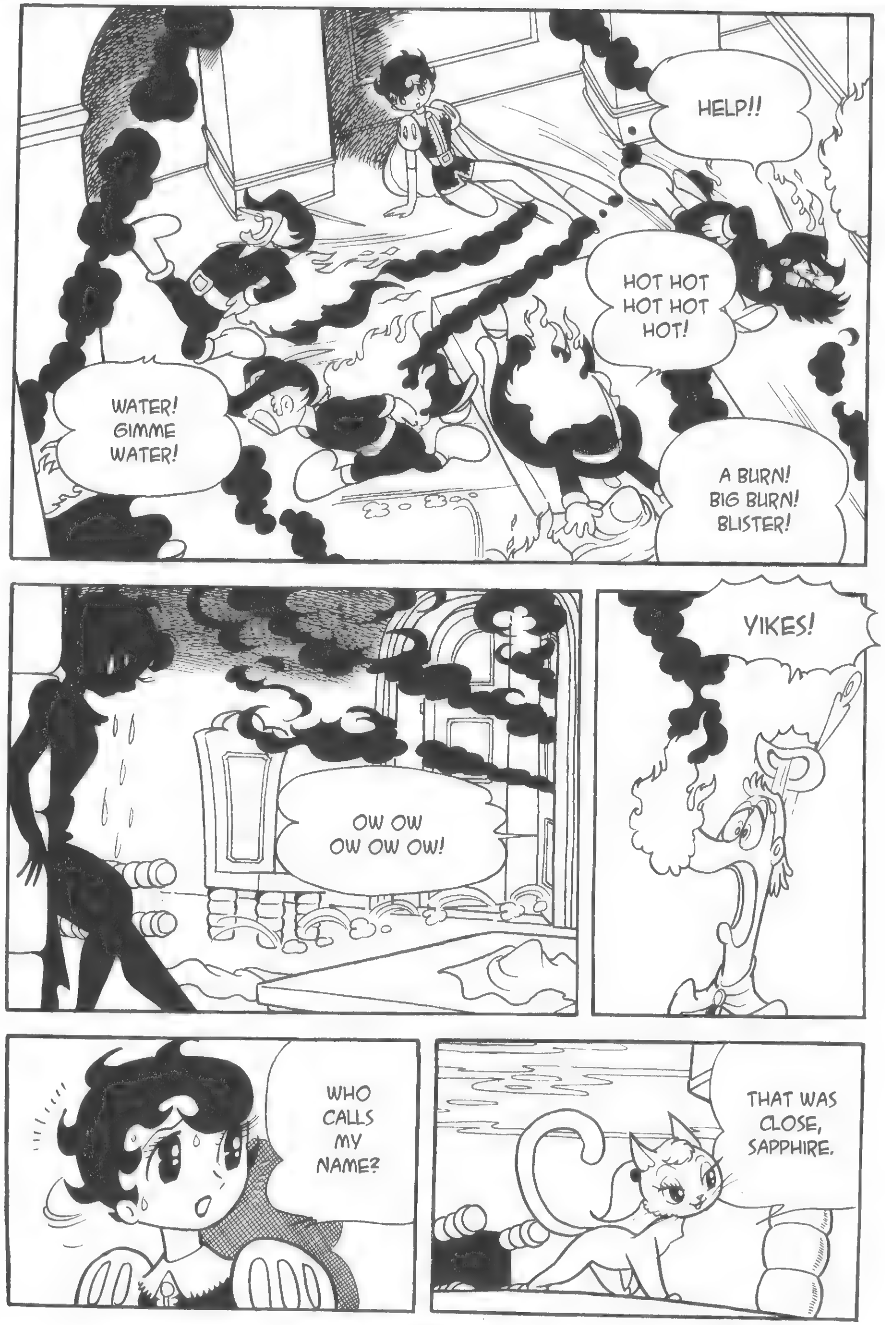

THE ELDERS ARE MET. COME THIS WAY, PLEASE.
I'LL SNEAK IN
FROM HERE.
TIP-TOE... TIP-TOE...
IT'S SAPPHIRE! GOOD, JUST IN TIME.
THE ILLUSTRIOUS ELDERS. PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEAT, THE MEETING'S ABOUT TO START.

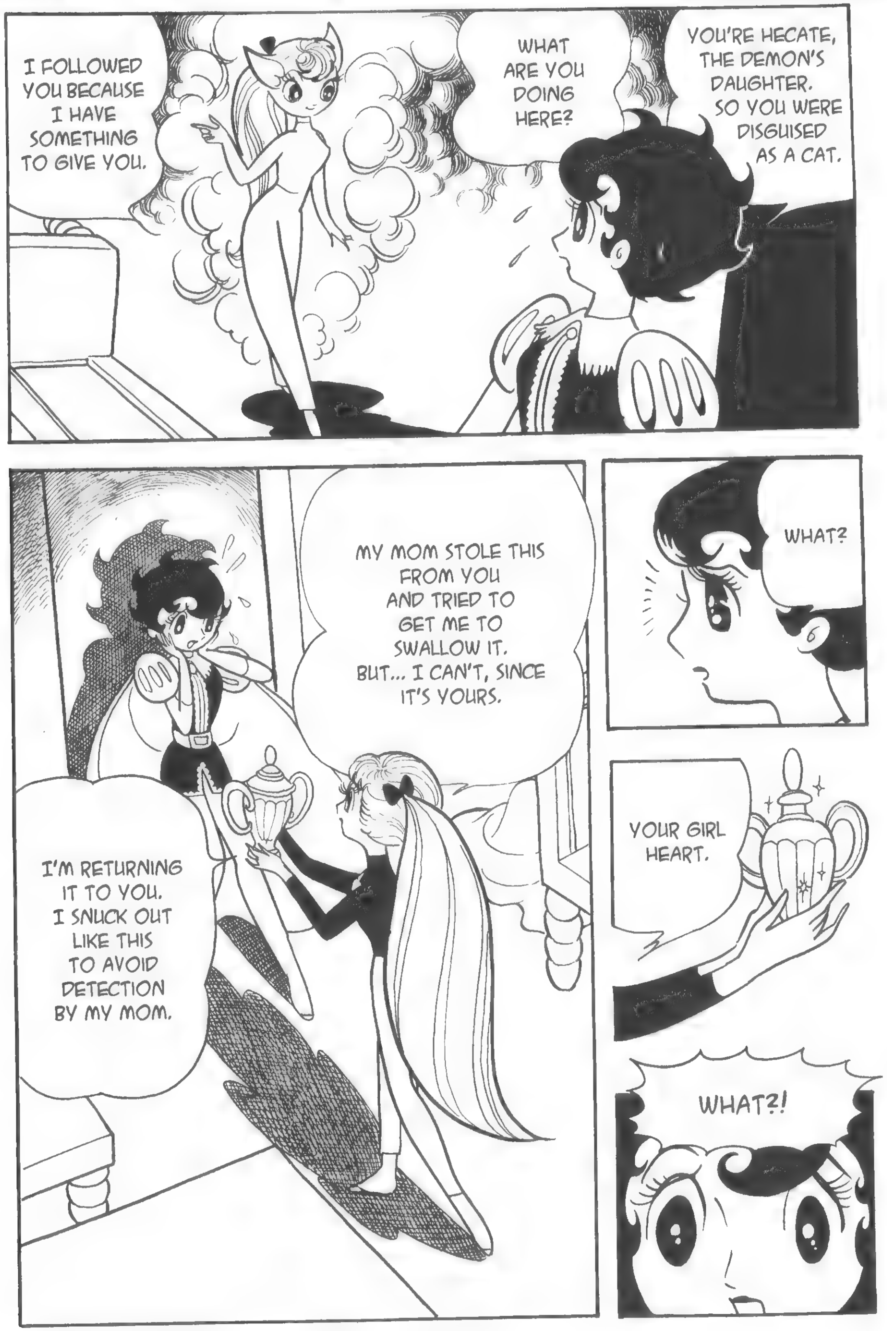

DO THE ELDERS ACCEPT PRINCE SAPPHIRE AS KING?
ACK!
AS ELDERS OF THIS COURT, HOW DARE YOU...
NOW THEN!
HEH HEH HEH. YOU THOUGHT WE WERE THE ELDERS? YOU'RE STILL A DUMB KID.

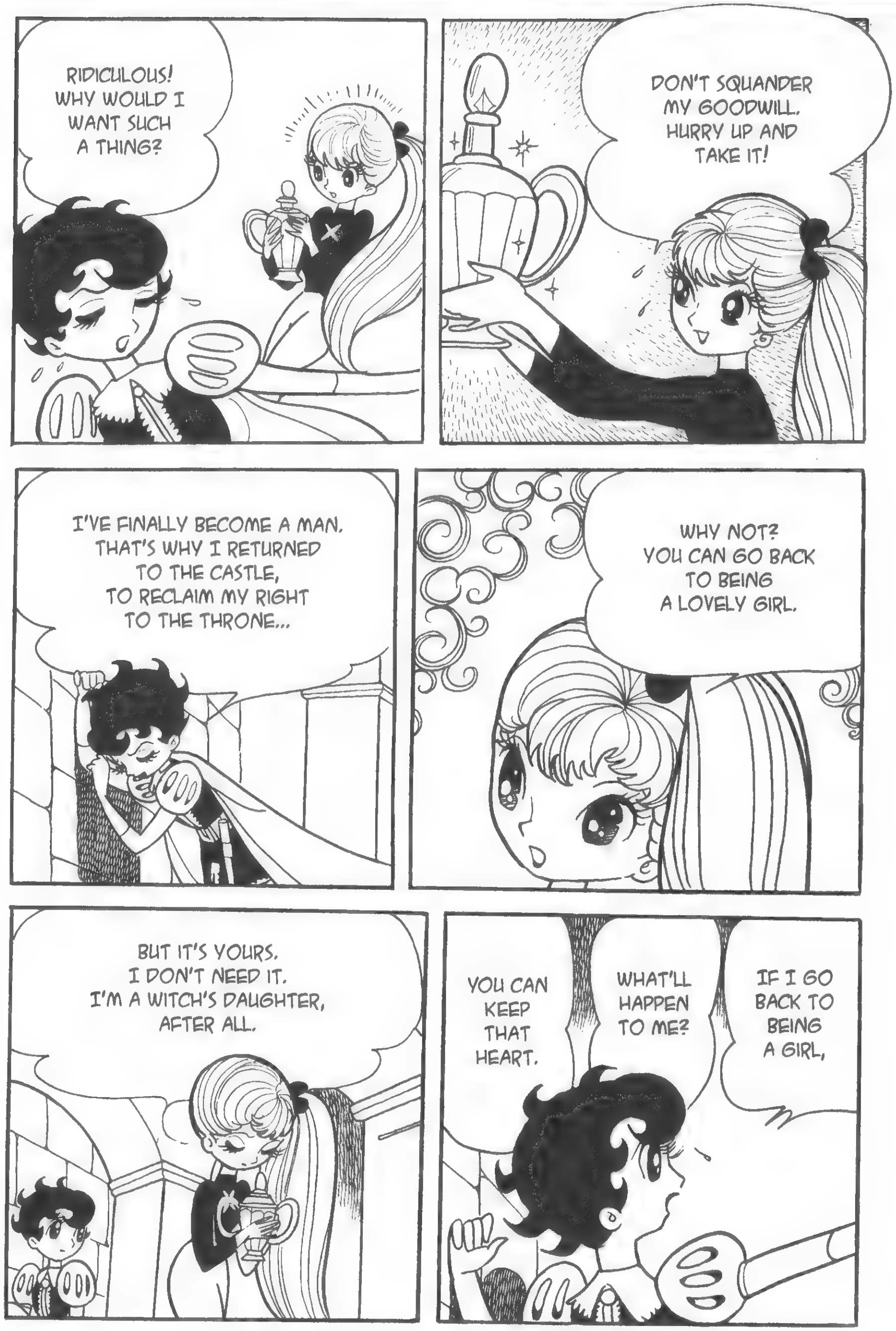

UNDER OUR GUISES WE'RE JUST ASSASSINS!
SO YOU TRICKED ME, EH, NYLON?
YOU'RE THE YELLOWEST COWARD ON EARTH!
AS IF WE'D BOTHER WITH THE TROUBLE OF LETTING YOU ASCEND THE THRONE!
YAAH!
SHOOP
AH!!

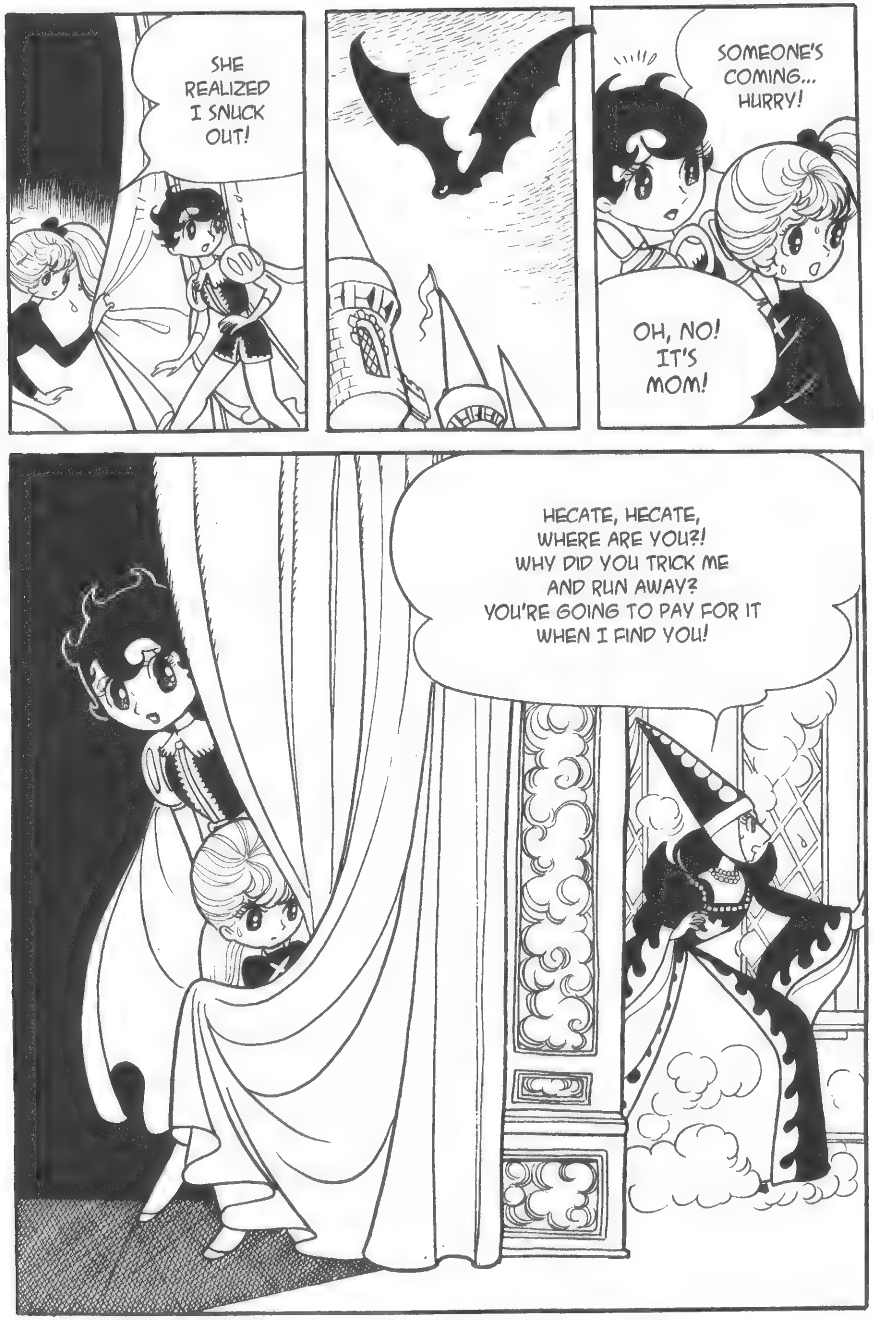

HEH HEH HEH. NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW YOU CAME HERE TO DIE.
PANT PANT
RIP
AHA HA HA!
HISS HISS
AAH!!

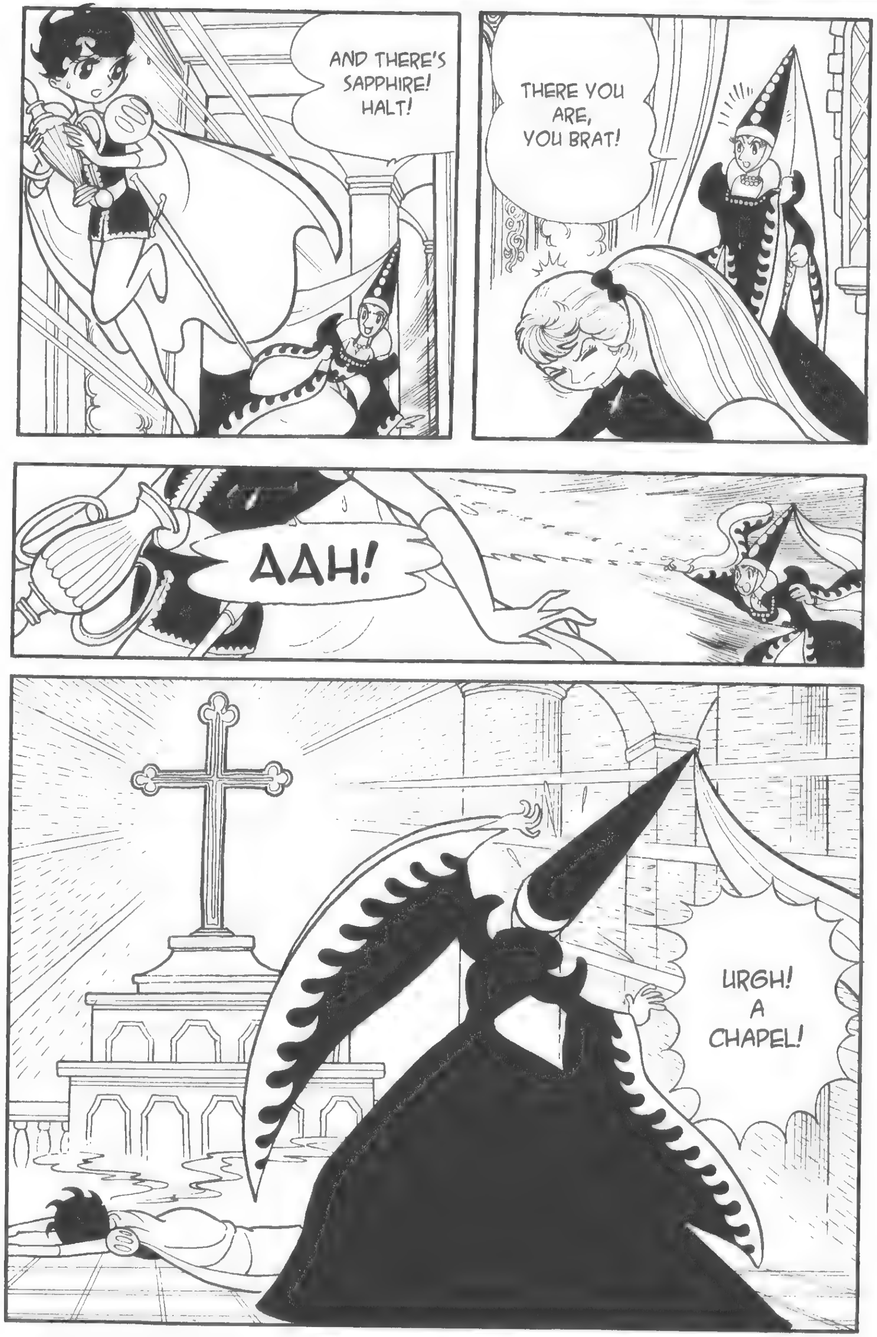

OH, NO! SAPPHIRE'LL BE KILLED!
LEAP
WHOOO
YIPE!
HOT HOT HOT!

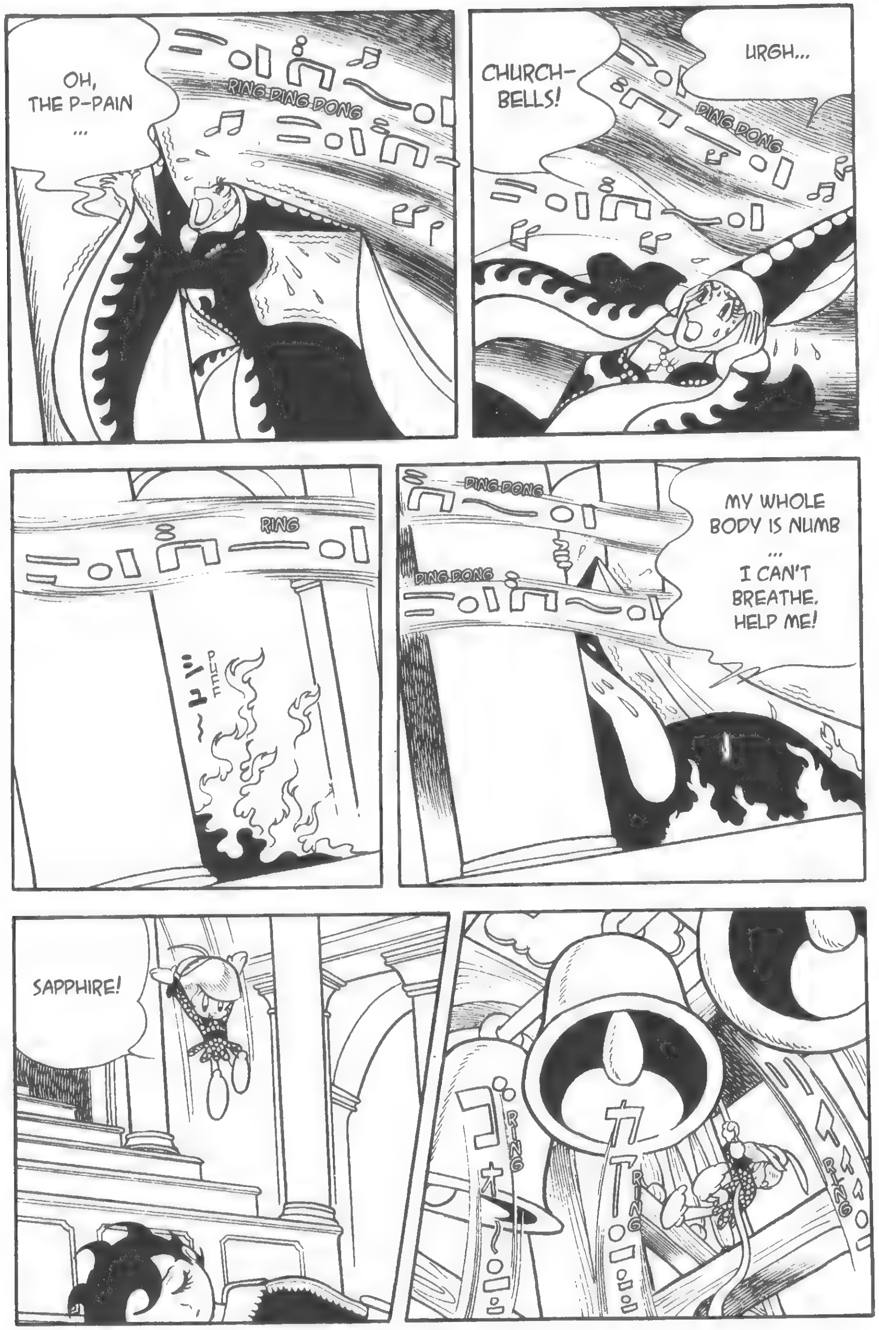

HELP!!
HOT HOT HOT HOT HOT!
A BURN! BIG BURN! BLISTER!
WATER! GIMME WATER!
YIKES!
OW OW OW OW OW!
THAT WAS CLOSE, SAPPHIRE.
WHO CALLS MY NAME?

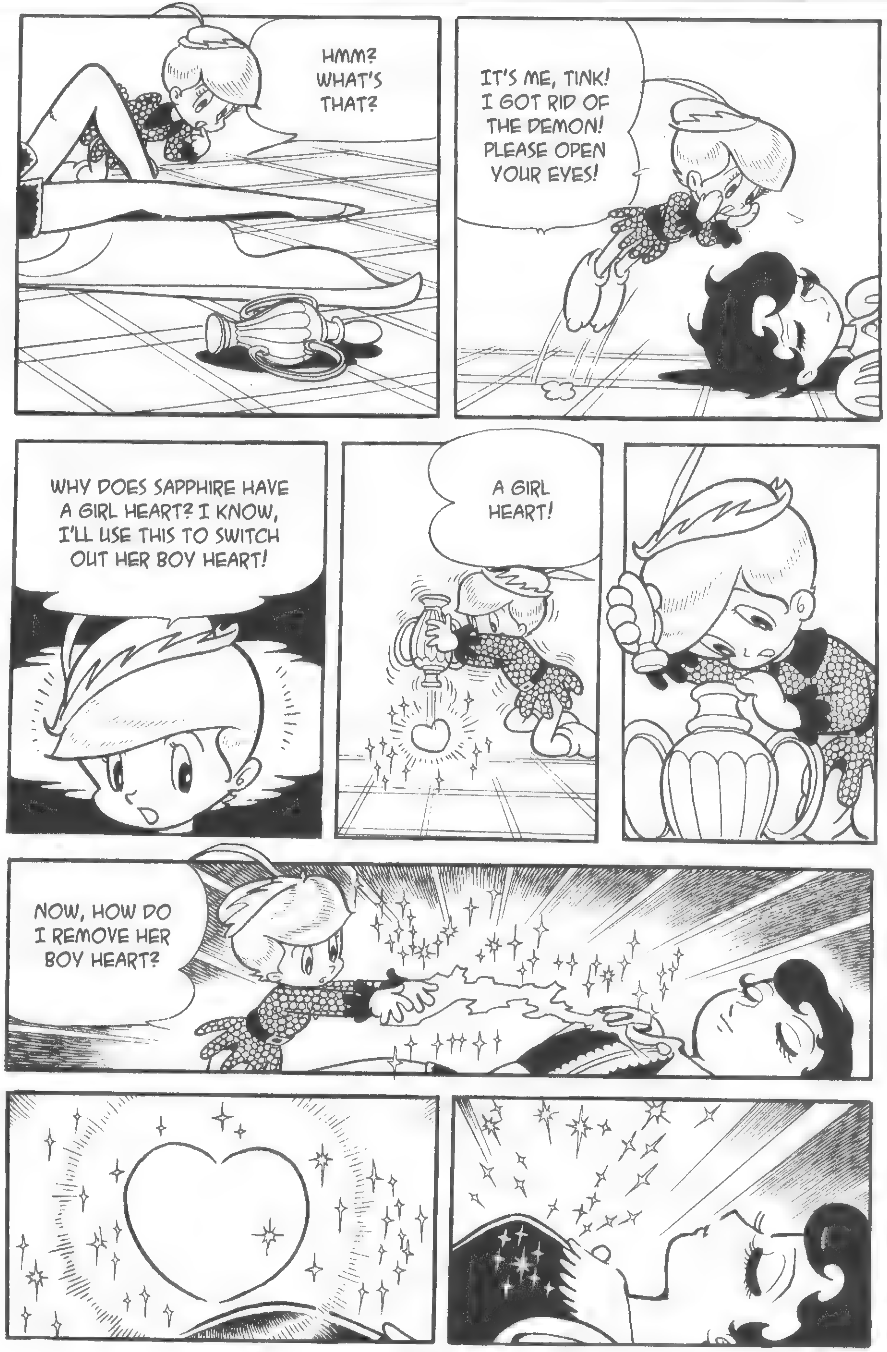

YOU'RE HECATE, THE DEMON'S DAUGHTER. SO YOU WERE DISGUISED AS A CAT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I FOLLOWED YOU BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU.
WHAT?
MY MOM STOLE THIS FROM YOU AND TRIED TO GET ME TO SWALLOW IT. BUT... I CAN'T, SINCE IT'S YOURS.
I'M RETURNING IT TO YOU. I SNUCK OUT LIKE THIS TO AVOID DETECTION BY MY MOM.
YOUR GIRL HEART.
WHAT?!

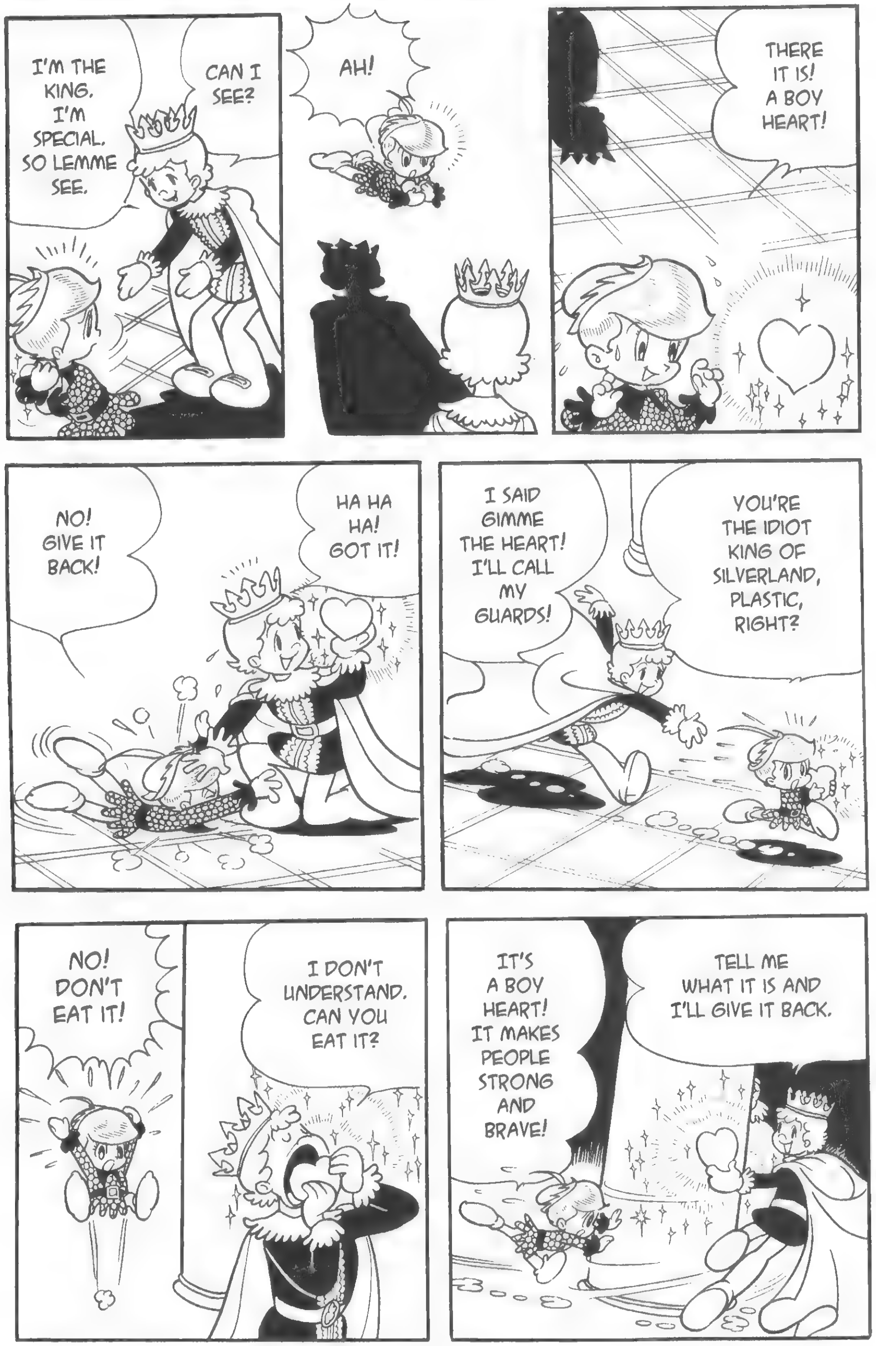

DON'T SQUANDER MY GOODWILL. HURRY UP AND TAKE IT!
RIDICULOUS! WHY WOULD I WANT SUCH A THING?
WHY NOT? YOU CAN GO BACK TO BEING A LOVELY GIRL.
I'VE FINALLY BECOME A MAN. THAT'S WHY I RETURNED TO THE CASTLE, TO RECLAIM MY RIGHT TO THE THRONE...
IF I GO BACK TO BEING A GIRL,
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME?
YOU CAN KEEP THAT HEART.
BUT IT'S YOURS. I DON'T NEED IT. I'M A WITCH'S DAUGHTER, AFTER ALL.

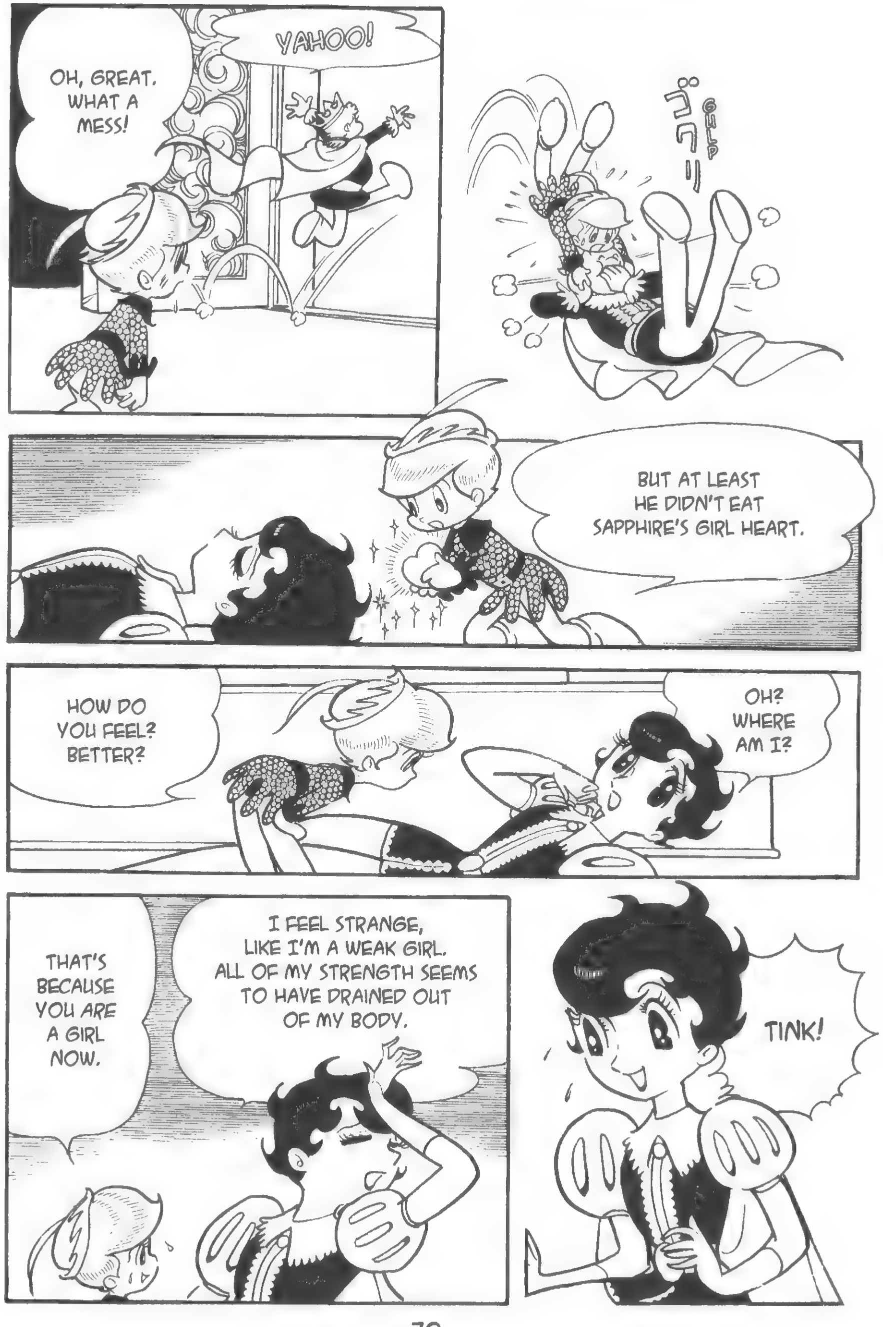

SOMEONE'S COMING... HURRY!
OH, NO! IT'S MOM!
SHE REALIZED I SNUCK OUT!
HECATE, HECATE, WHERE ARE YOU?! WHY DID YOU TRICK ME AND RUN AWAY? YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR IT WHEN I FIND YOU!

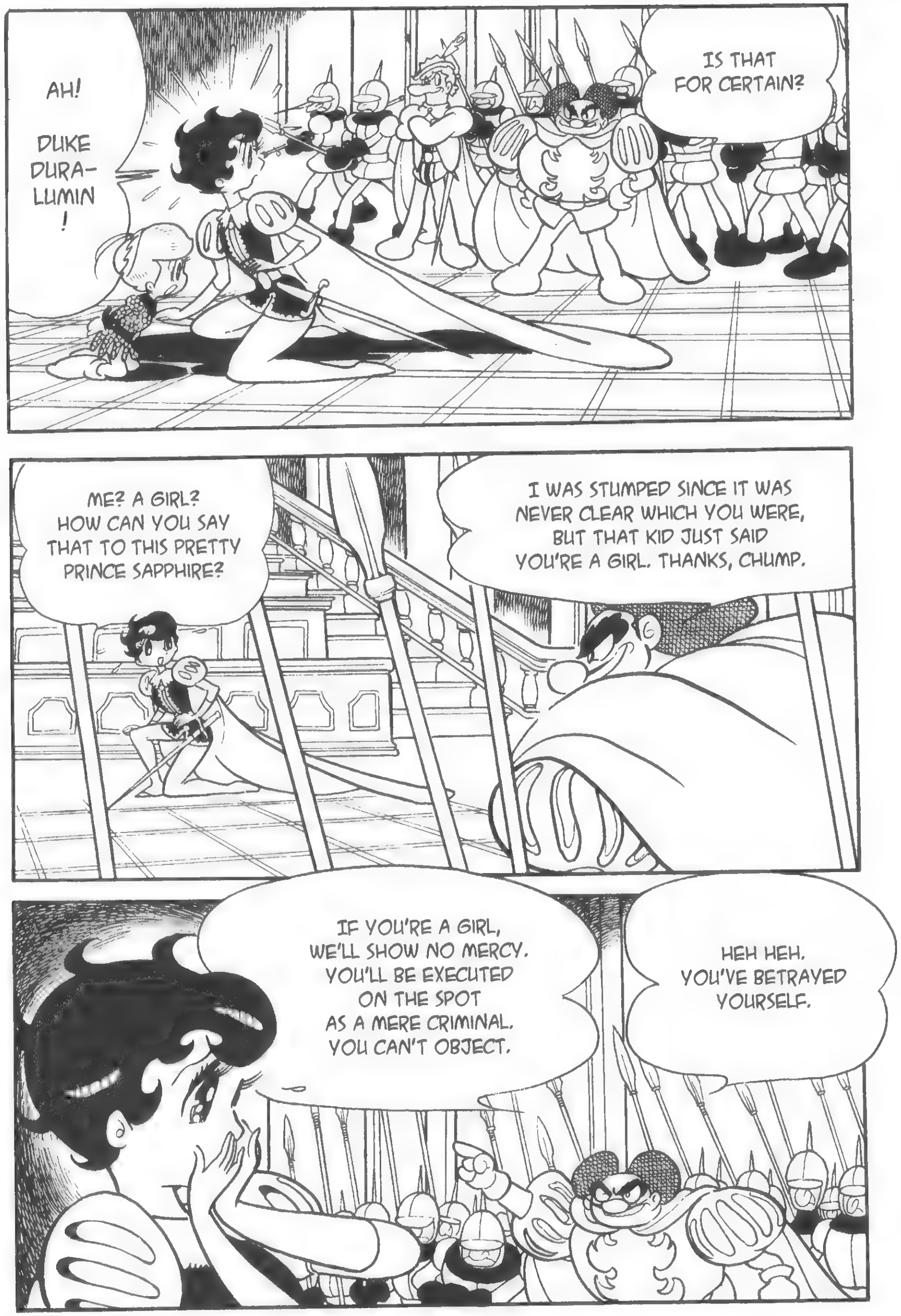

THERE YOU ARE, YOU BRAT!
AND THERE'S SAPPHIRE! HALT!
AAH!
URGH! A CHAPEL!

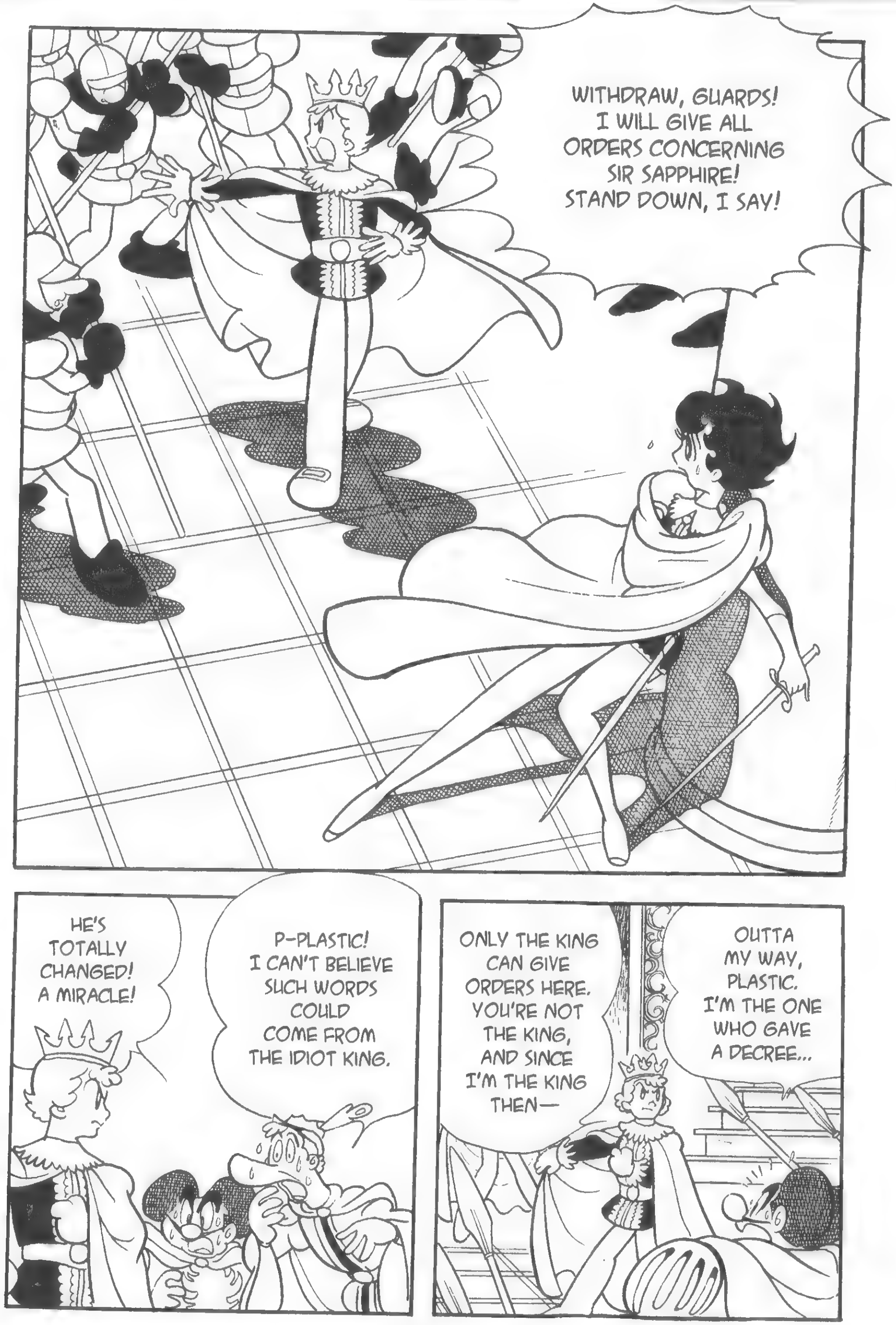

URGH...
CHURCH-BELLS!
DING DONG
OH, THE P-PAIN ...
RING DING DONG
MY WHOLE BODY IS NUMB ... I CAN'T BREATHE. HELP ME!
DING DONG
DING DONG
RING
PUFF
RING
RING
RING
RING
SAPPHIRE!

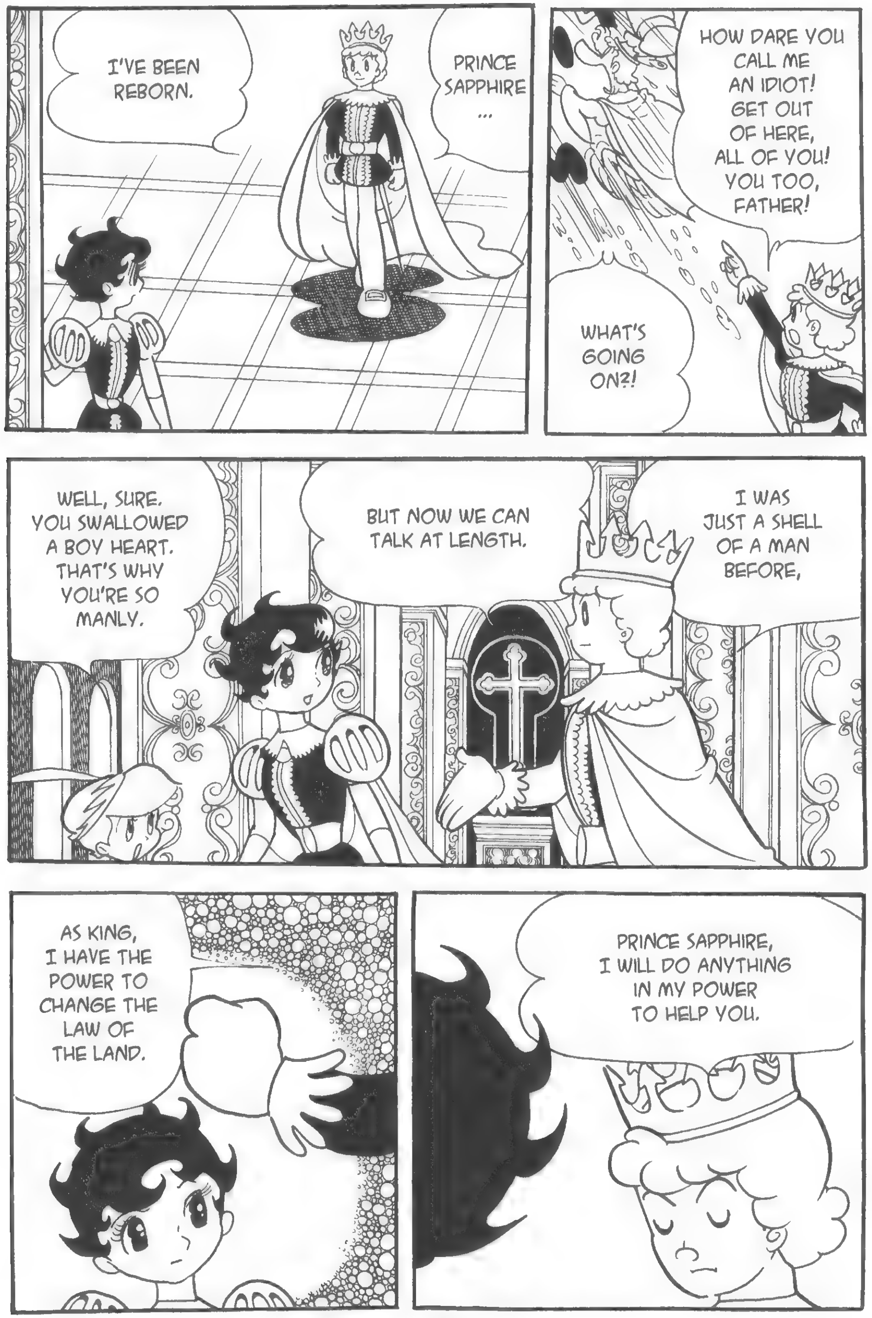

IT'S ME, TINK! I GOT RID OF THE DEMON! PLEASE OPEN YOUR EYES!
HMM? WHAT'S THAT?
A GIRL HEART!
WHY DOES SAPPHIRE HAVE A GIRL HEART? I KNOW, I'LL USE THIS TO SWITCH OUT HER BOY HEART!
NOW, HOW DO I REMOVE HER BOY HEART?

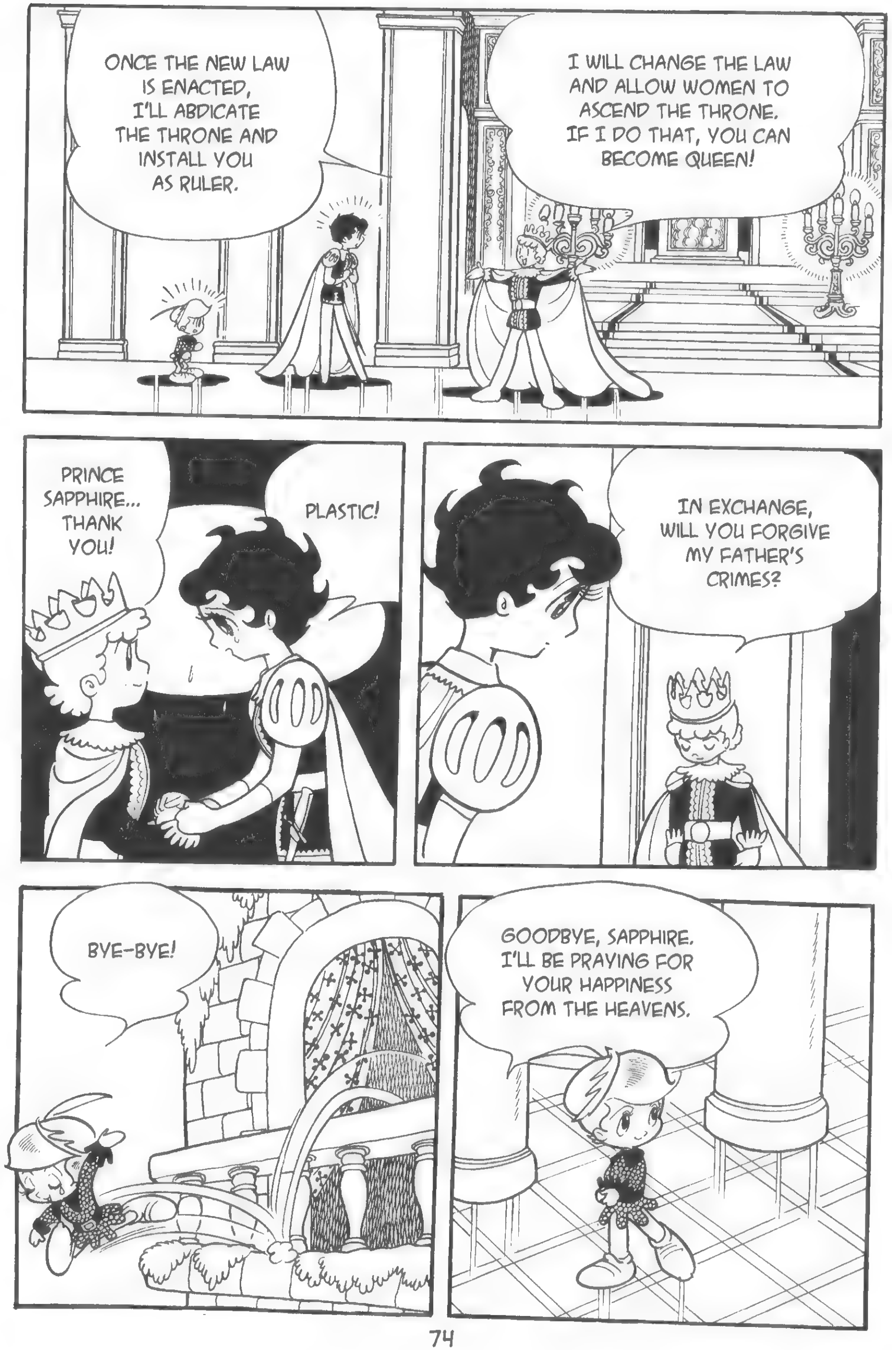

THERE IT IS! A BOY HEART!
AH!
CAN I SEE?
I'M THE KING. I'M SPECIAL. SO LEMME SEE.
YOU'RE THE IDIOT KING OF SILVERLAND, PLASTIC, RIGHT?
I SAID GIMME THE HEART! I'LL CALL MY GUARDS!
HA HA HA! GOT IT!
NO! GIVE IT BACK!
TELL ME WHAT IT IS AND I'LL GIVE IT BACK.
IT'S A BOY HEART! IT MAKES PEOPLE STRONG AND BRAVE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. CAN YOU EAT IT?
NO! DON'T EAT IT!

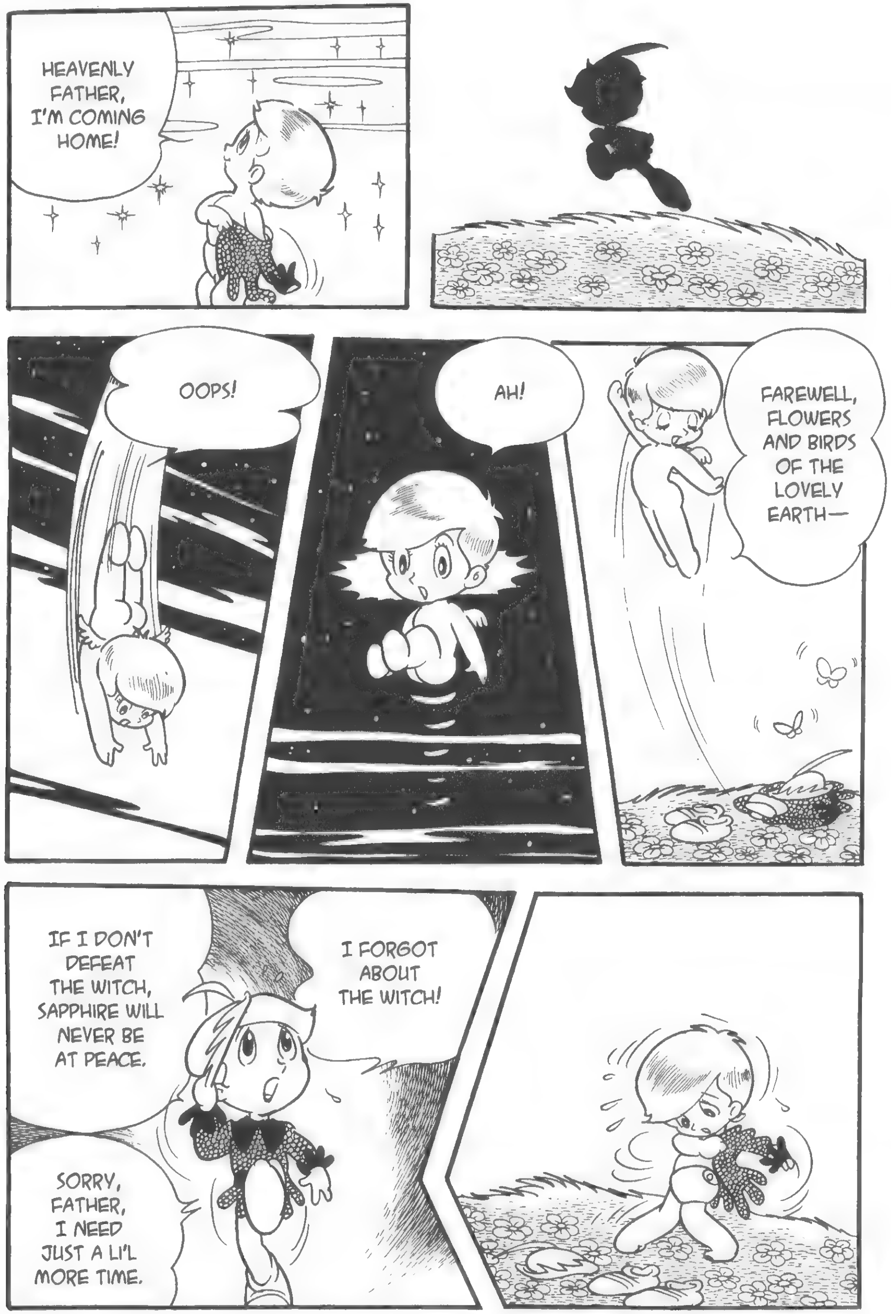

ゴクリ
GULP
YAHOO!
OH, GREAT. WHAT A MESS!
BUT AT LEAST HE DIDN'T EAT SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART.
OH? WHERE AM I?
HOW DO YOU FEEL? BETTER?
TINK!
I FEEL STRANGE, LIKE I'M A WEAK GIRL. ALL OF MY STRENGTH SEEMS TO HAVE DRAINED OUT OF MY BODY.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE A GIRL NOW.


IS THAT FOR CERTAIN?
AH! DUKE DURALUMIN!
I WAS STUMPED SINCE IT WAS NEVER CLEAR WHICH YOU WERE, BUT THAT KID JUST SAID YOU'RE A GIRL. THANKS, CHUMP.
ME? A GIRL? HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO THIS PRETTY PRINCE SAPPHIRE?
HEH HEH. YOU'VE BETRAYED YOURSELF.
IF YOU'RE A GIRL, WE'LL SHOW NO MERCY. YOU'LL BE EXECUTED ON THE SPOT AS A MERE CRIMINAL. YOU CAN'T OBJECT.


WITHDRAW, GUARDS! I WILL GIVE ALL ORDERS CONCERNING SIR SAPPHIRE! STAND DOWN, I SAY!
OUTTA MY WAY, PLASTIC. I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE A DECREE...
ONLY THE KING CAN GIVE ORDERS HERE. YOU'RE NOT THE KING, AND SINCE I'M THE KING THEN—
P-PLASTIC! I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH WORDS COULD COME FROM THE IDIOT KING.
HE'S TOTALLY CHANGED! A MIRACLE!

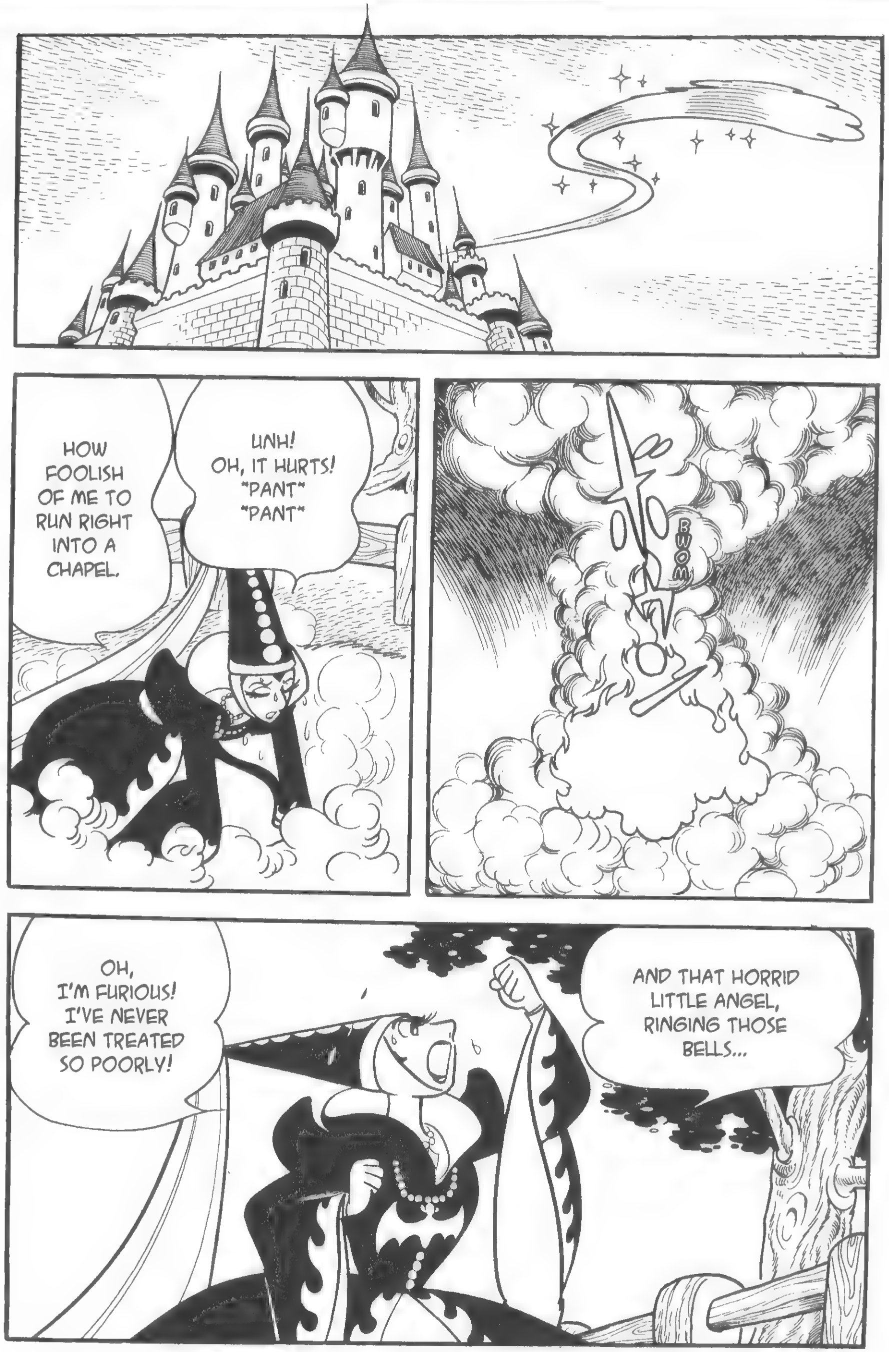

HOW DARE YOU CALL ME AN IDIOT! GET OUT OF HERE, ALL OF YOU! YOU TOO, FATHER!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
PRINCE SAPPHIRE ...
I'VE BEEN REBORN.
I WAS JUST A SHELL OF A MAN BEFORE,
BUT NOW WE CAN TALK AT LENGTH.
WELL, SURE. YOU SWALLOWED A BOY HEART. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO MANLY.
PRINCE SAPPHIRE, I WILL DO ANYTHING IN MY POWER TO HELP YOU.
AS KING, I HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE THE LAW OF THE LAND.

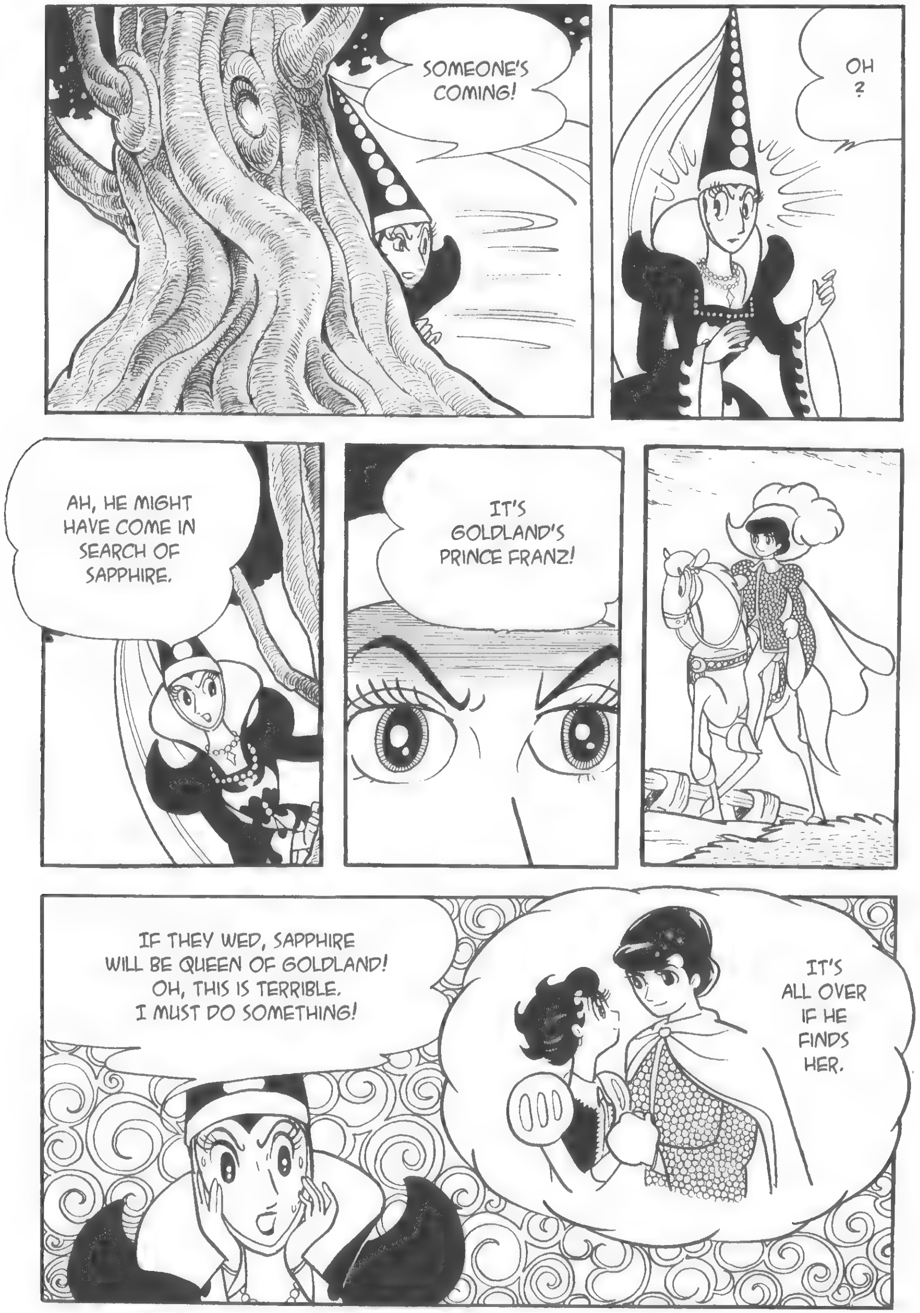

I WILL CHANGE THE LAW AND ALLOW WOMEN TO ASCEND THE THRONE. IF I DO THAT, YOU CAN BECOME QUEEN!
ONCE THE NEW LAW IS ENACTED, I'LL ABDICATE THE THRONE AND INSTALL YOU AS RULER.
IN EXCHANGE, WILL YOU FORGIVE MY FATHER'S CRIMES?
PLASTIC!
PRINCE SAPPHIRE... THANK YOU!
GOODBYE, SAPPHIRE. I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOUR HAPPINESS FROM THE HEAVENS.
BYE-BYE!

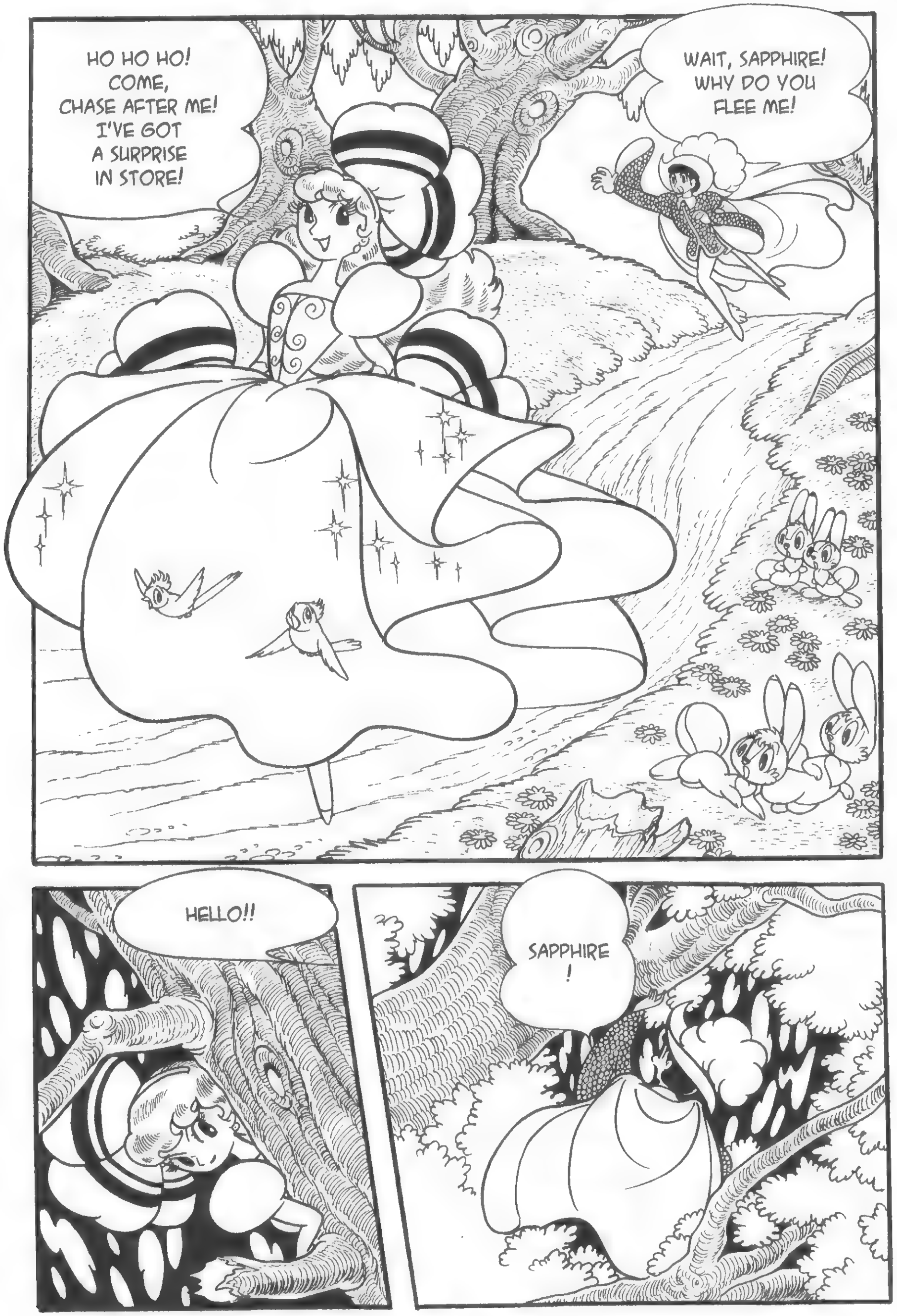

HEAVENLY FATHER, I'M COMING HOME!
FAREWELL, FLOWERS AND BIRDS OF THE LOVELY EARTH—
AH!
OOPS!
I FORGOT ABOUT THE WITCH!
IF I DON'T DEFEAT THE WITCH, SAPPHIRE WILL NEVER BE AT PEACE.
SORRY, FATHER, I NEED JUST A LI'L MORE TIME.

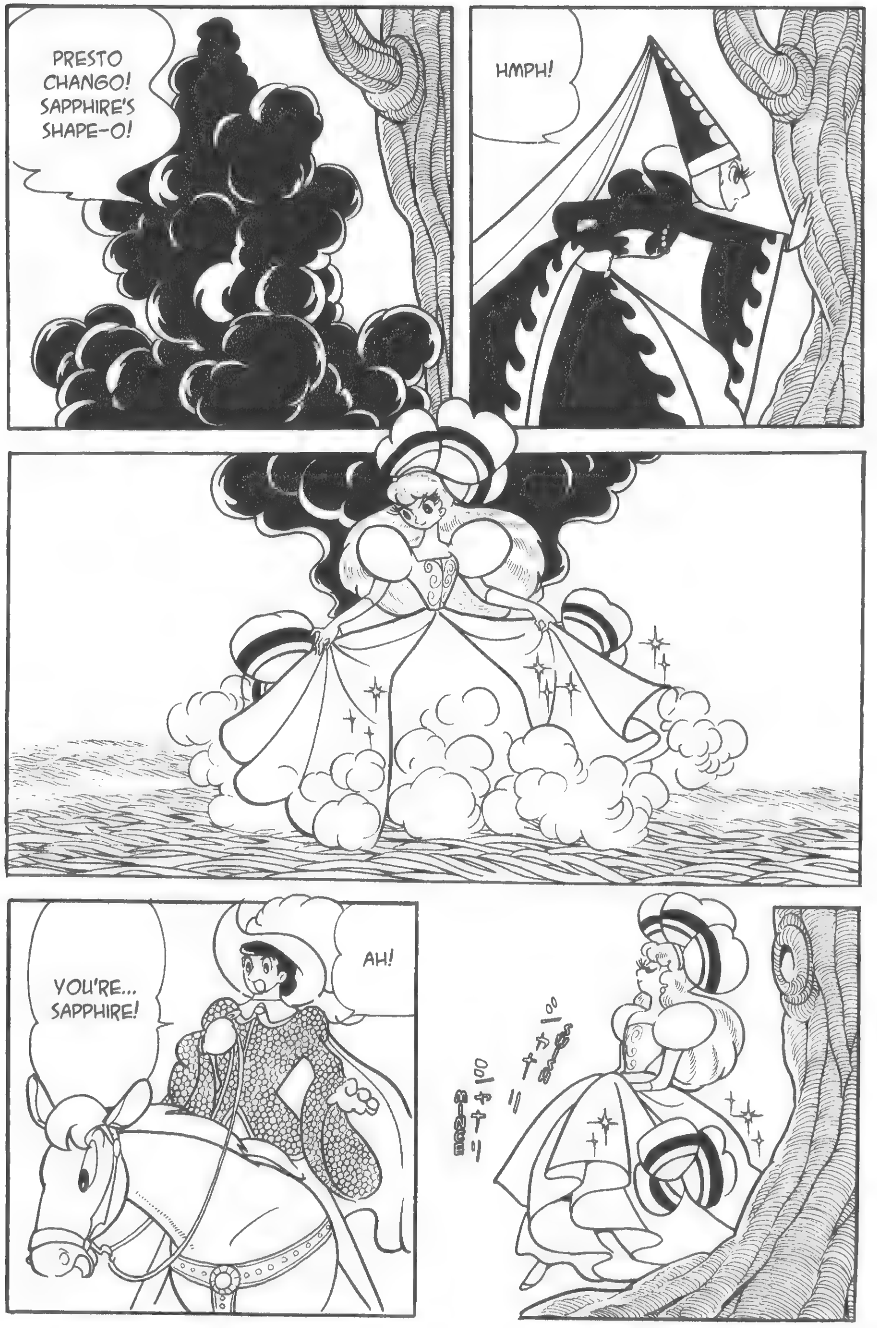
Chapter 19

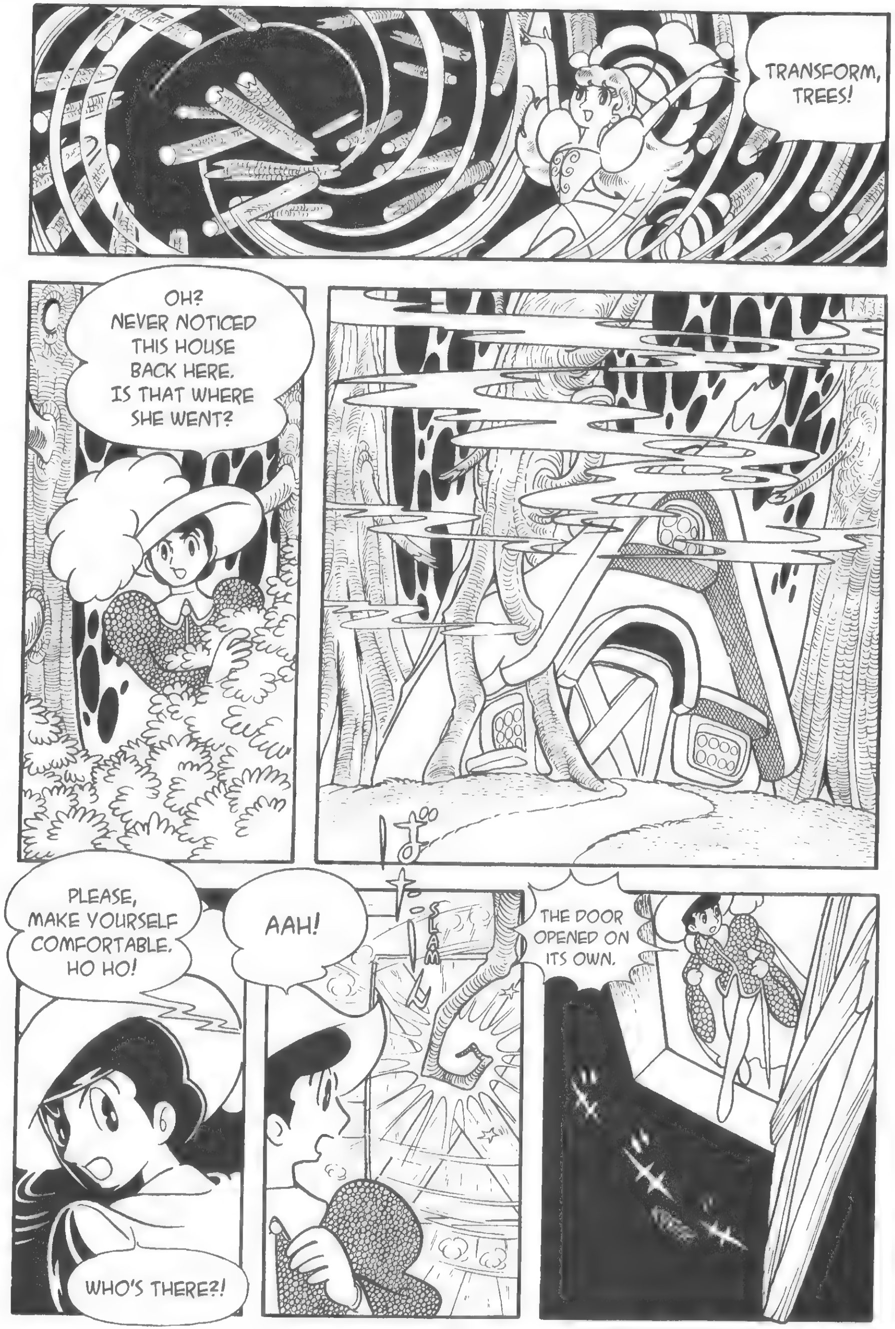
Madame Hell's Demands

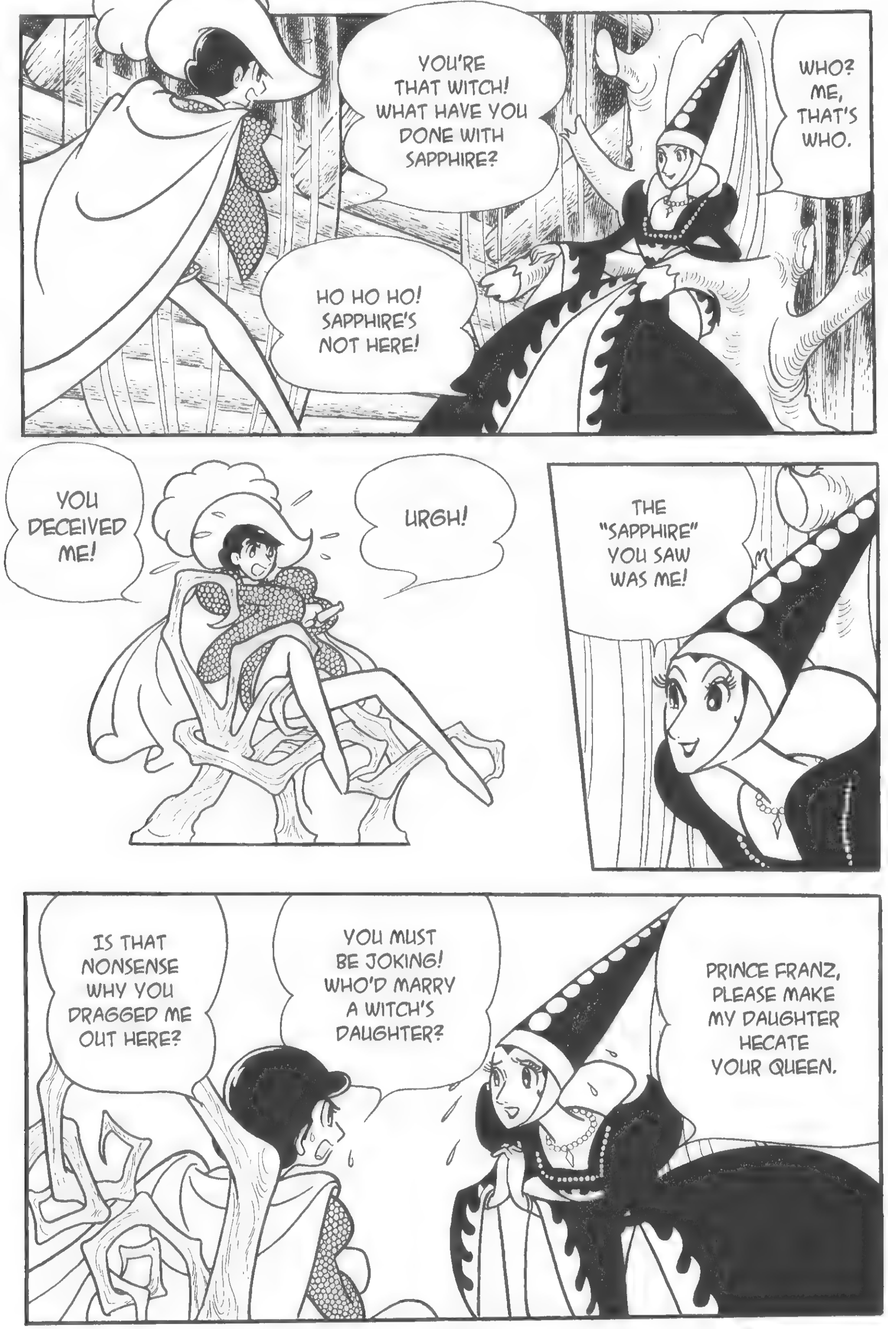

BWOM
UNH! OH, IT HURTS! "PANT" "PANT"
HOW FOOLISH OF ME TO RUN RIGHT INTO A CHAPEL.
OH, I'M FURIOUS! I'VE NEVER BEEN TREATED SO POORLY!
AND THAT HORRID LITTLE ANGEL, RINGING THOSE BELLS...

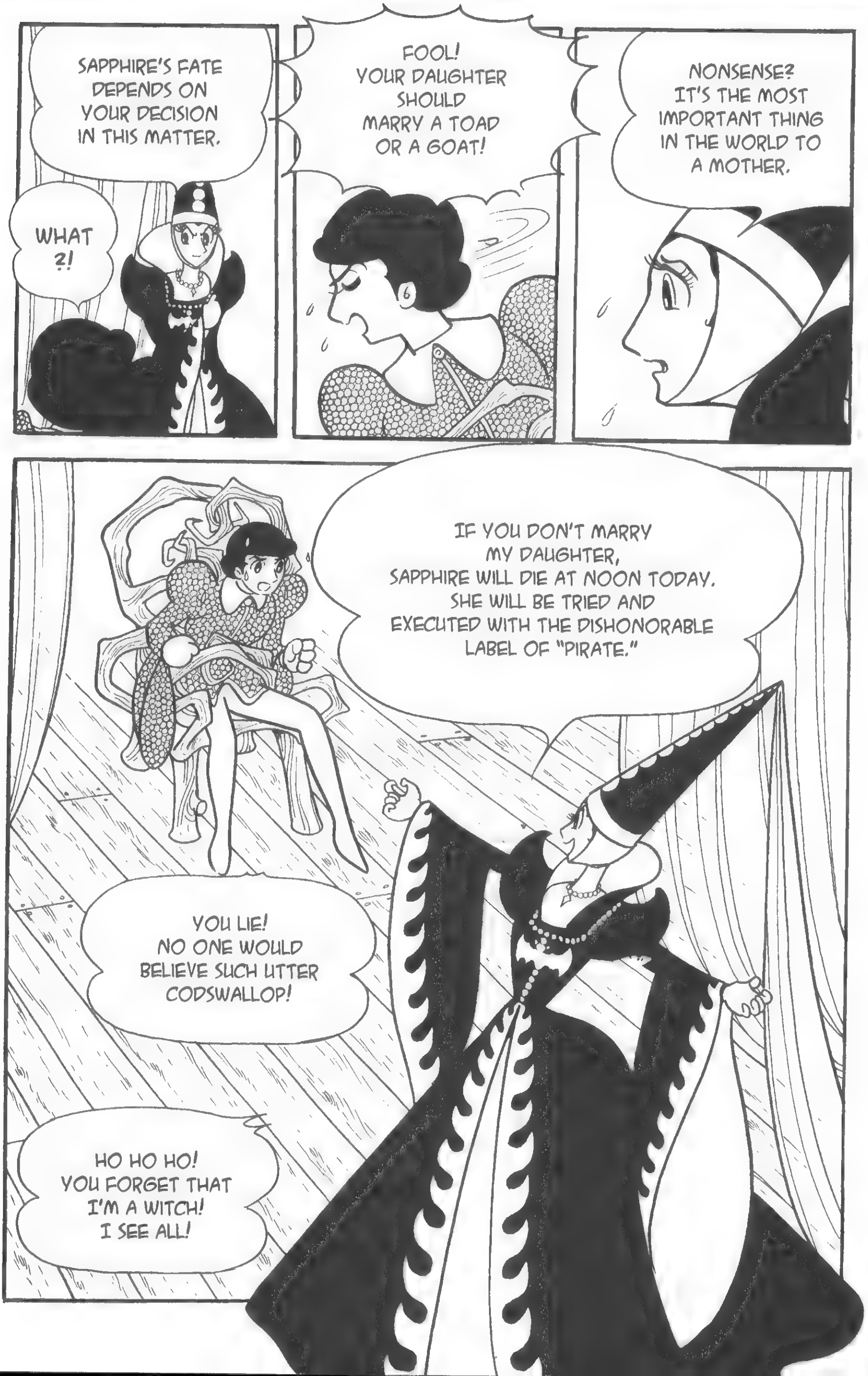

OH ?
SOMEONE'S COMING!
IT'S GOLDLAND'S PRINCE FRANZ!
AH, HE MIGHT HAVE COME IN SEARCH OF SAPPHIRE.
IT'S ALL OVER IF HE FINDS HER.
IF THEY WED, SAPPHIRE WILL BE QUEEN OF GOLDLAND! OH, THIS IS TERRIBLE. I MUST DO SOMETHING!

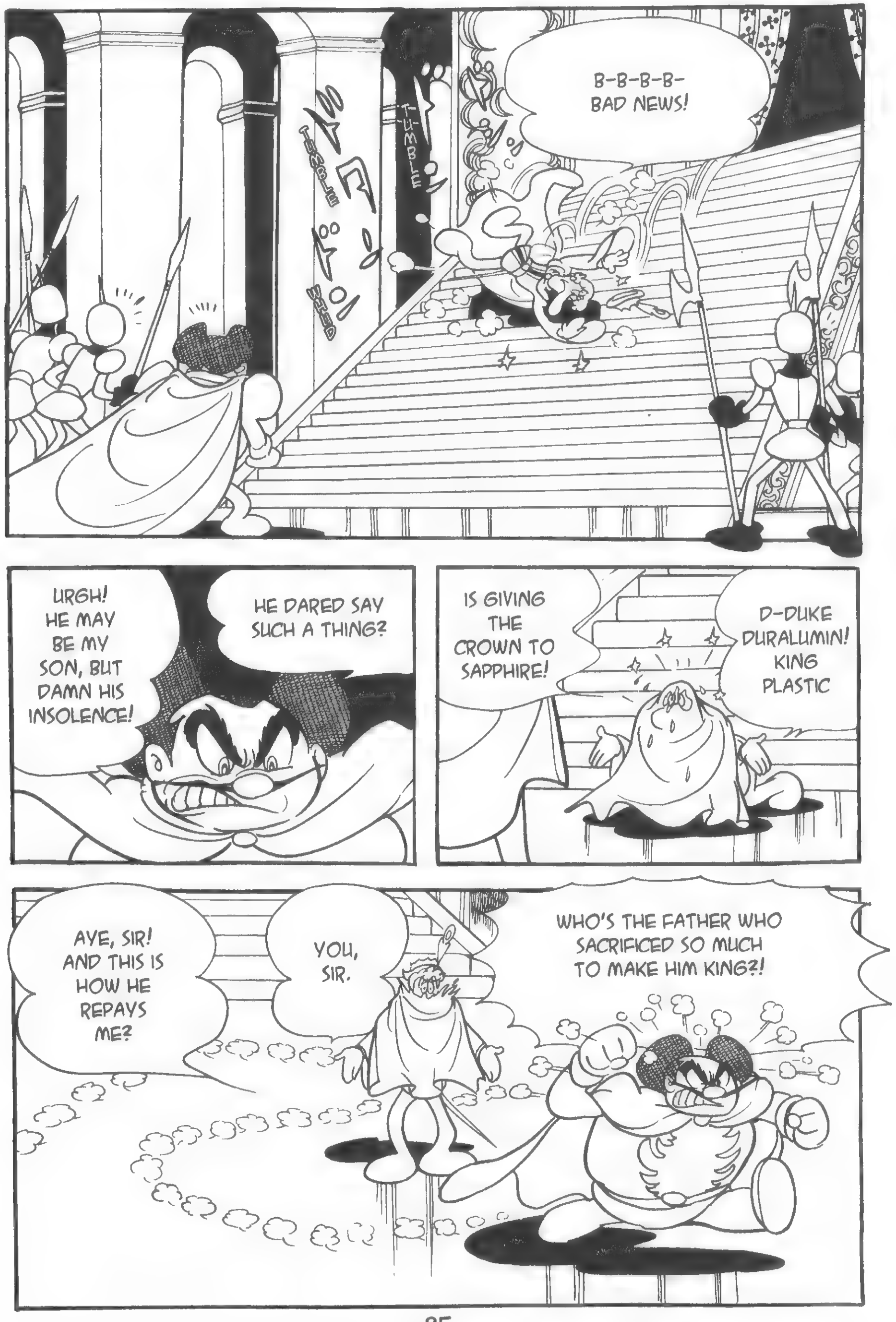

HO HO HO! COME, CHASE AFTER ME! I'VE GOT A SURPRISE IN STORE!
WAIT, SAPPHIRE! WHY DO YOU FLEE ME!
HELLO!!
SAPPHIRE!

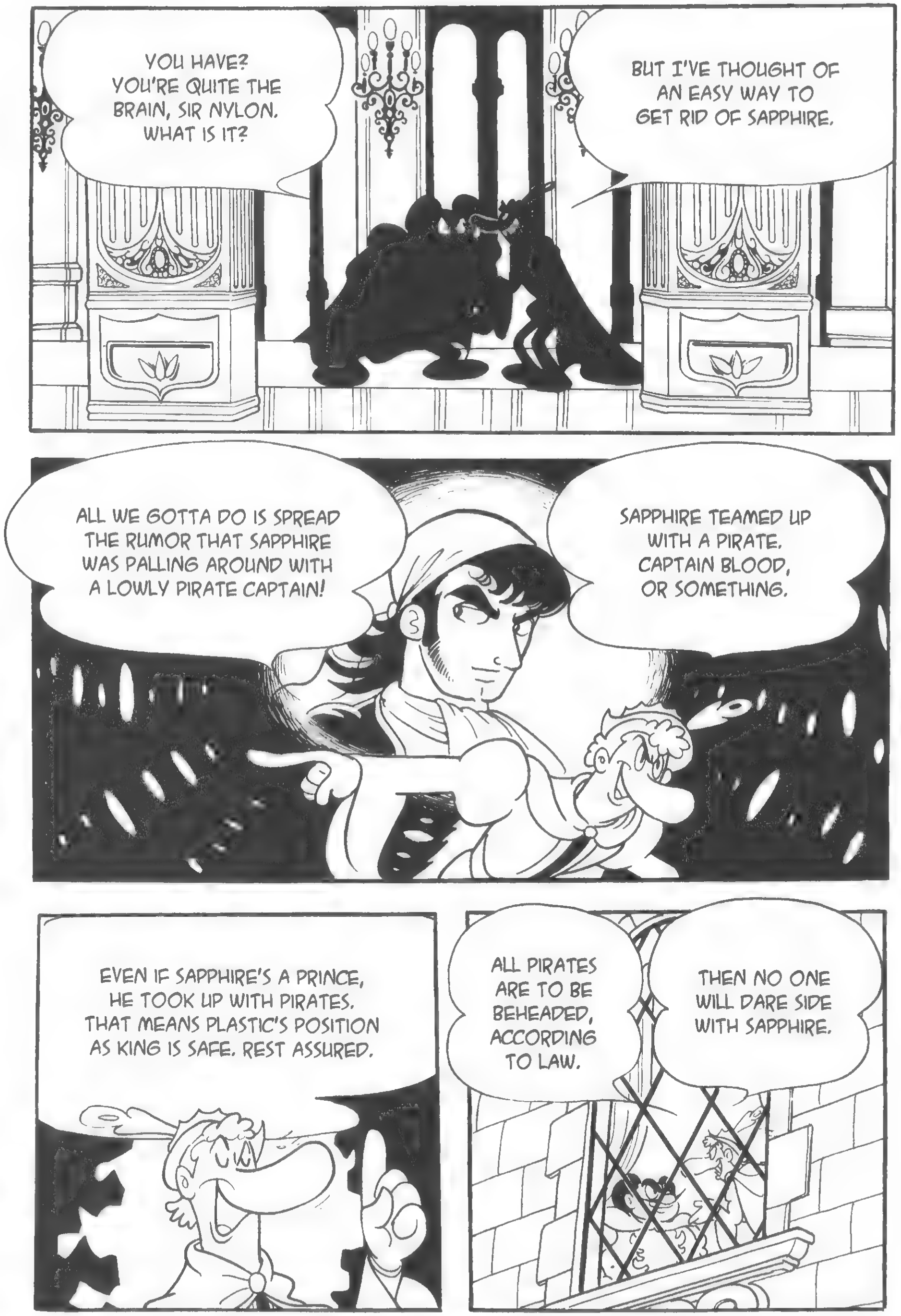

PRESTO CHANGO! SAPPHIRE'S SHAPE-O!
HMPH!
YOU'RE... SAPPHIRE!
AH!
シャナリ゜゜
MINCE
シャナリ゜゜
MINCE

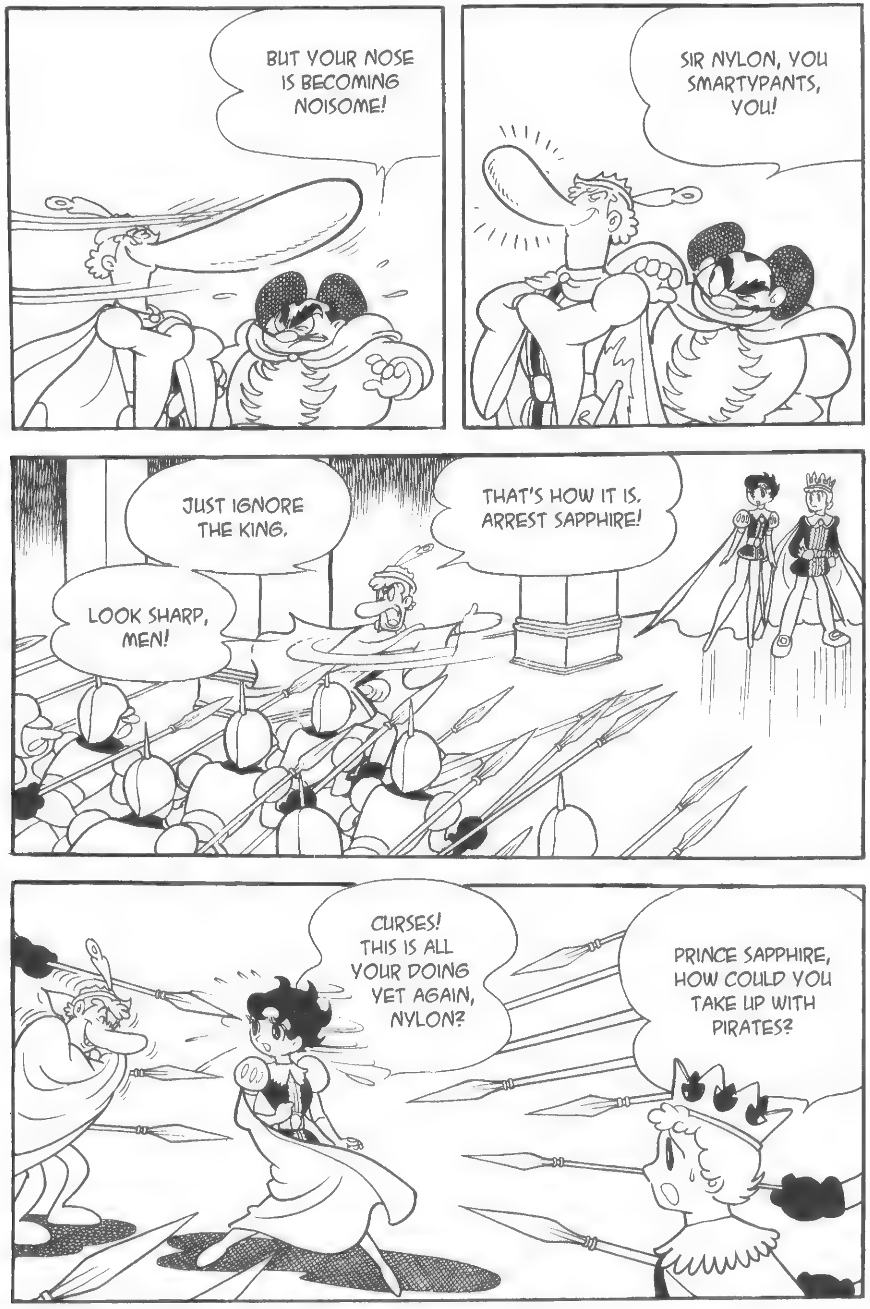

TRANSFORM, TREES!
OH? NEVER NOTICED THIS HOUSE BACK HERE. IS THAT WHERE SHE WENT?
THE DOOR OPENED ON ITS OWN.
AAH!
SLAM
PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE. HO HO!
WHO'S THERE?!

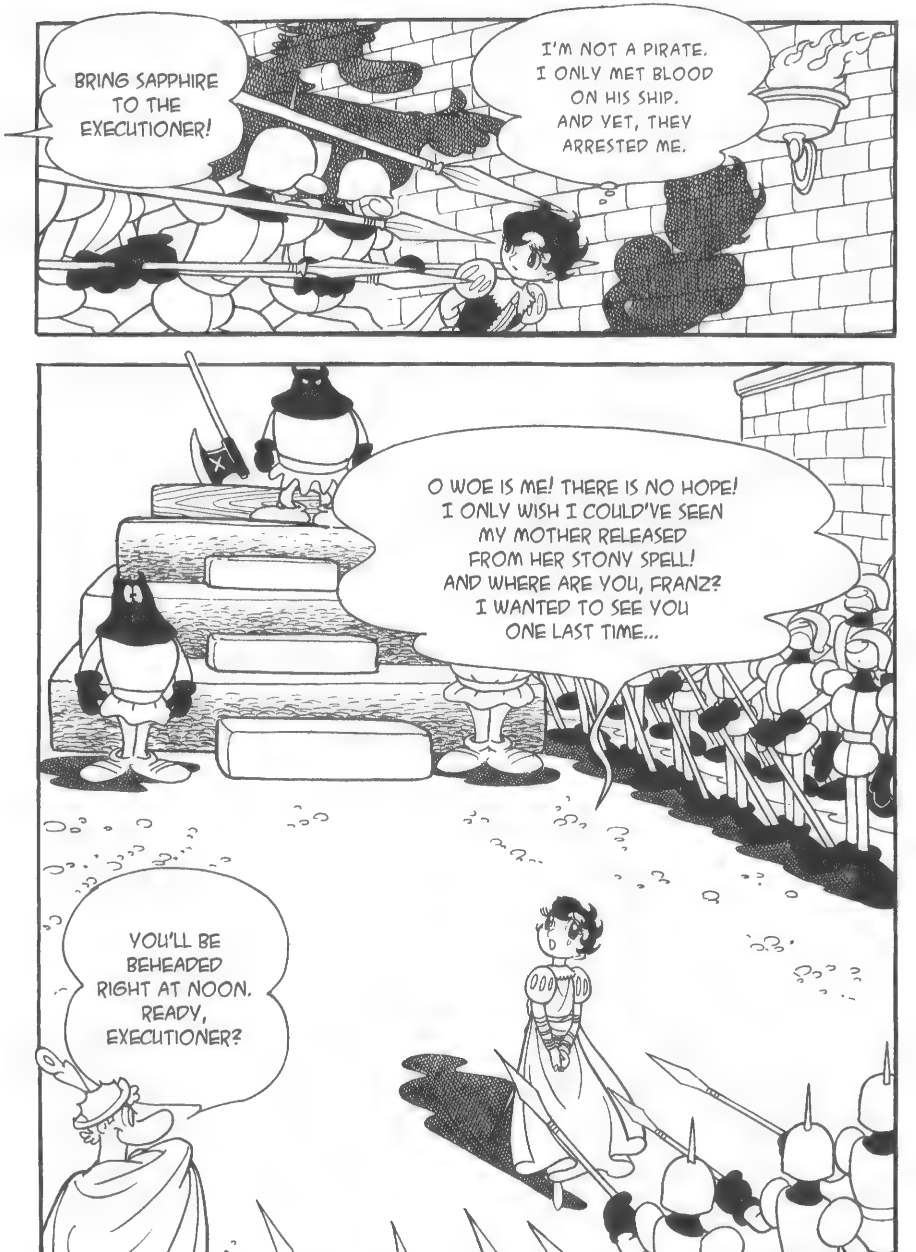

WHO? ME, THAT'S WHO.
YOU'RE THAT WITCH! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH SAPPHIRE?
HO HO HO! SAPPHIRE'S NOT HERE!
THE "SAPPHIRE" YOU SAW WAS ME!
URGH!
YOU DECEIVED ME!
PRINCE FRANZ, PLEASE MAKE MY DAUGHTER HECATE YOUR QUEEN.
YOU MUST BE JOKING! WHO'D MARRY A WITCH'S DAUGHTER?
IS THAT NONSENSE WHY YOU DRAGGED ME OUT HERE?

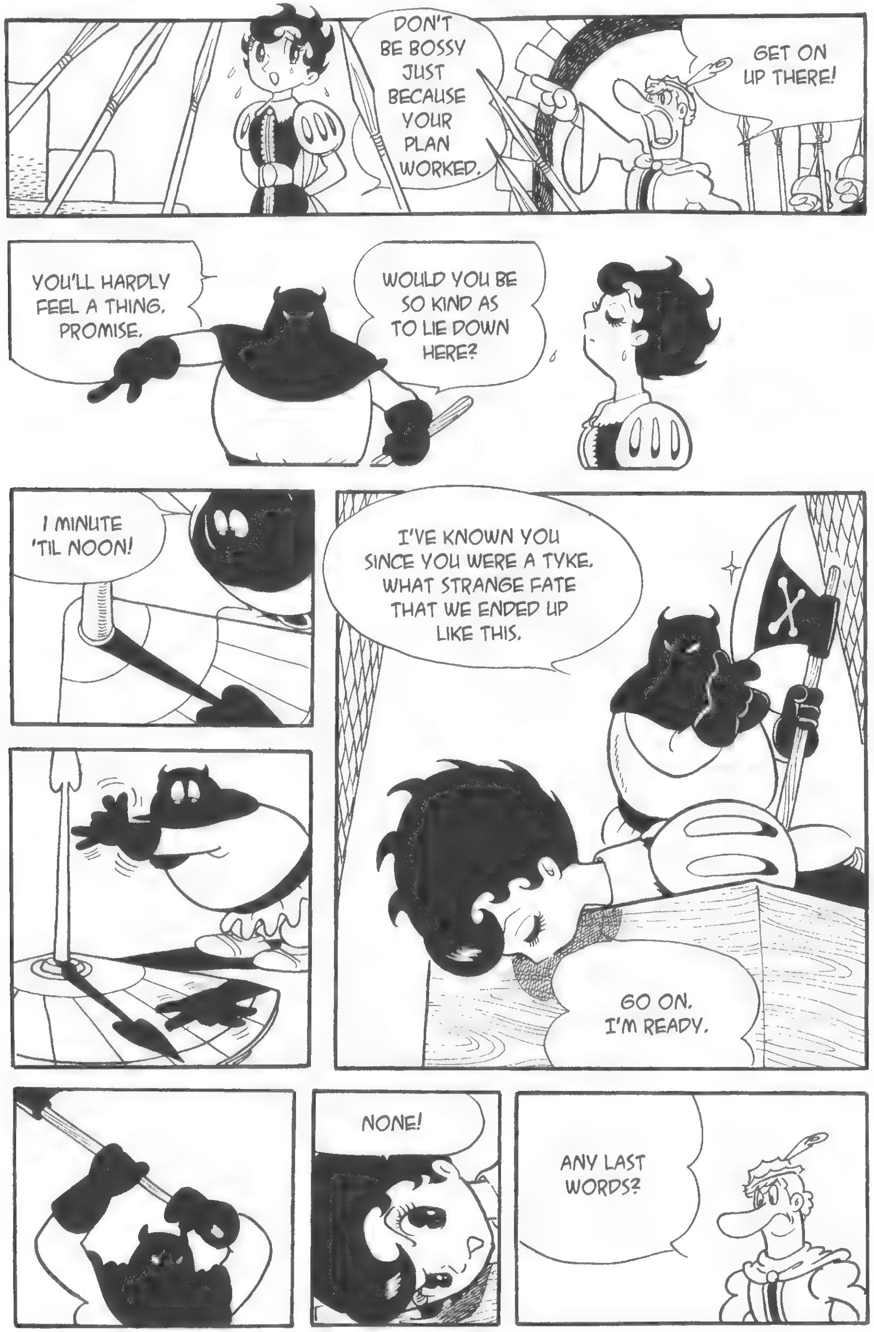

NONSENSE? IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD TO A MOTHER.
FOOL! YOUR DAUGHTER SHOULD MARRY A TOAD OR A GOAT!
SAPPHIRE'S FATE DEPENDS ON YOUR DECISION IN THIS MATTER.
WHAT?!
IF YOU DON'T MARRY MY DAUGHTER, SAPPHIRE WILL DIE AT NOON TODAY. SHE WILL BE TRIED AND EXECUTED WITH THE DISHONORABLE LABEL OF "PIRATE."
YOU LIE! NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE SUCH UTTER CODSWALLOP!
HO HO HO! YOU FORGET THAT I'M A WITCH! I SEE ALL!

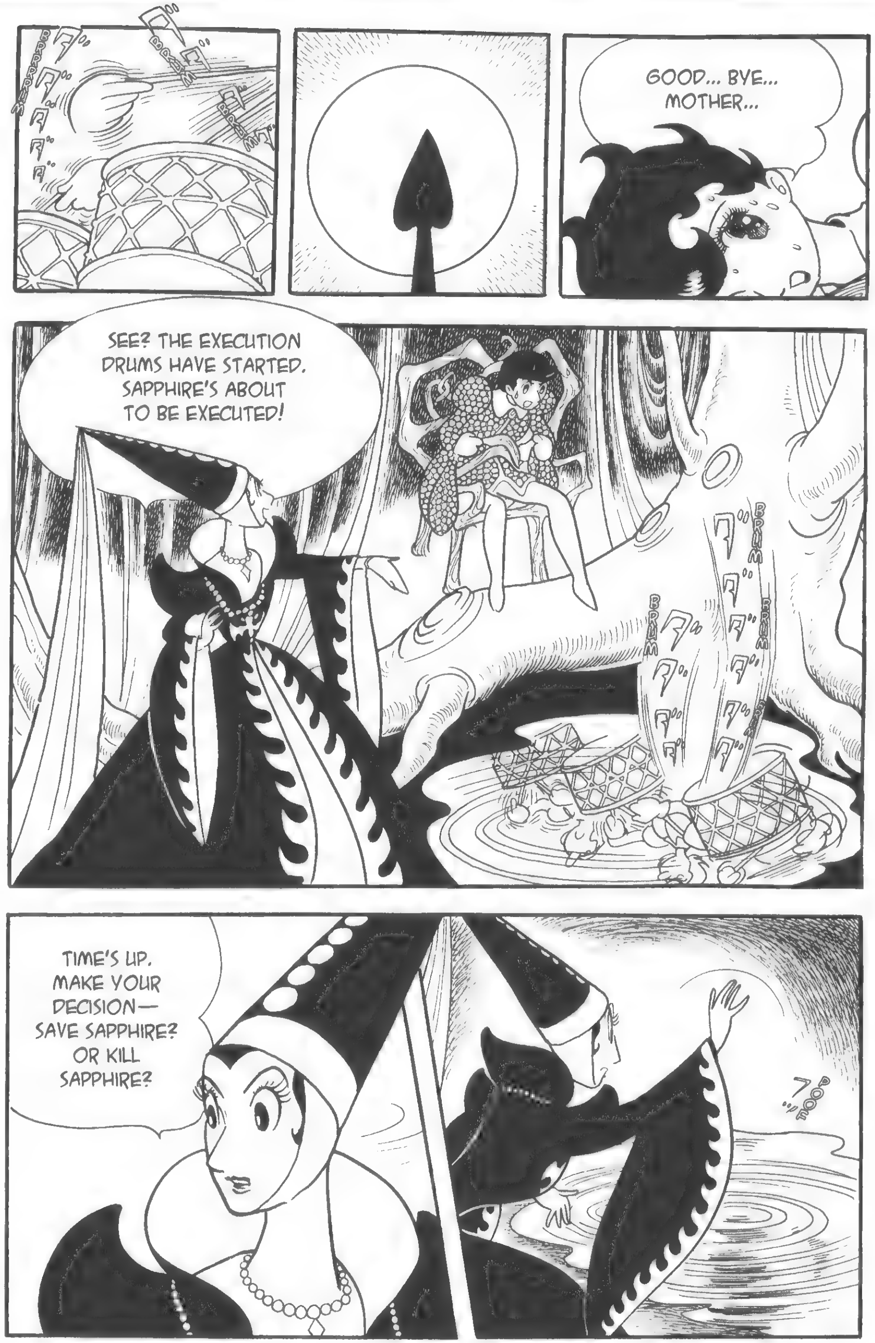

B-B-B-B-BAD NEWS!
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
THUD
D-DUKE DURALUMIN! KING PLASTIC
IS GIVING THE CROWN TO SAPPHIRE!
HE DARED SAY SUCH A THING?
URGH! HE MAY BE MY SON, BUT DAMN HIS INSOLENCE!
WHO'S THE FATHER WHO SACRIFICED SO MUCH TO MAKE HIM KING?!
YOU, SIR.
AYE, SIR! AND THIS IS HOW HE REPAYS ME?

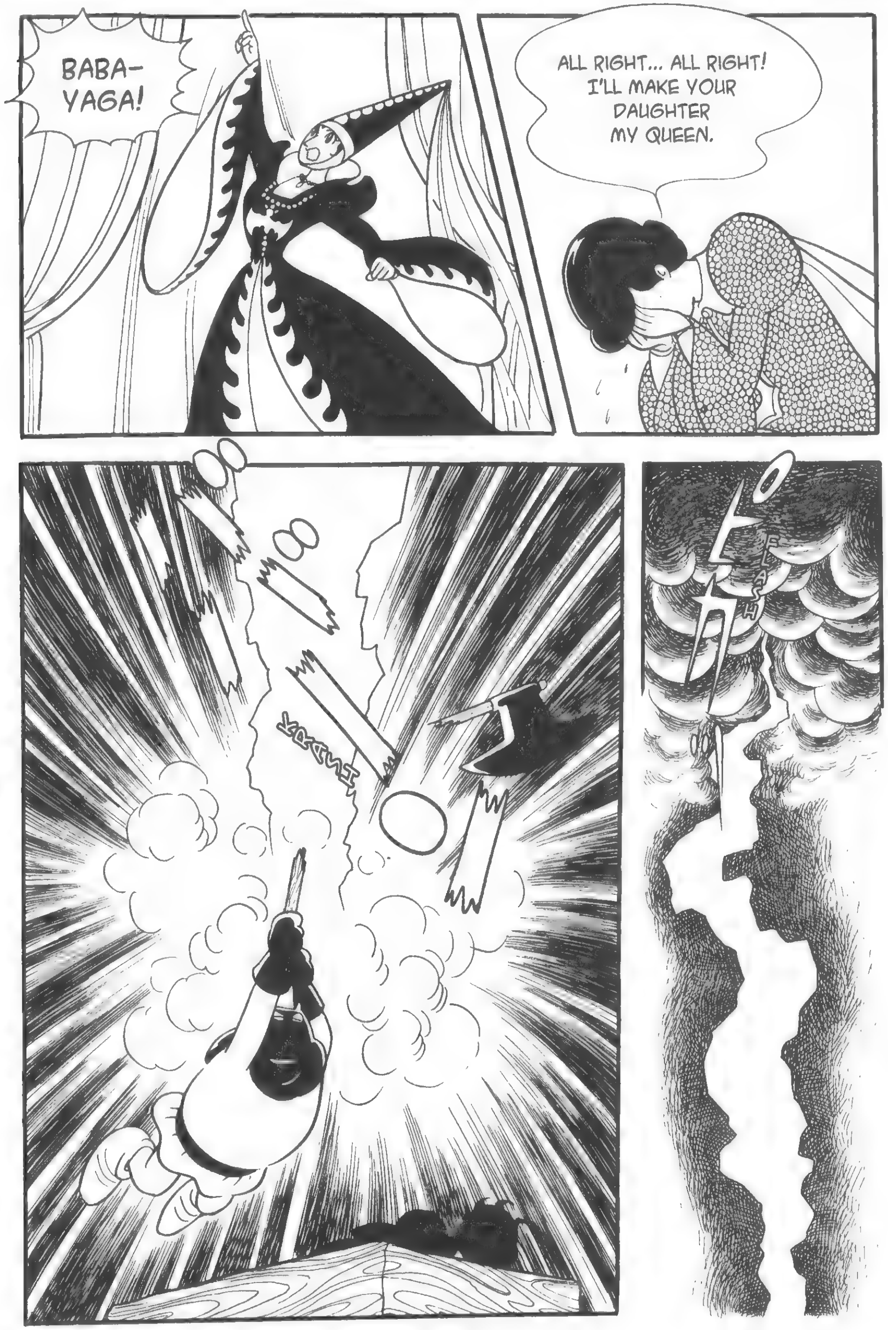

BUT I'VE THOUGHT OF AN EASY WAY TO GET RID OF SAPPHIRE.
YOU HAVE? YOU'RE QUITE THE BRAIN, SIR NYLON. WHAT IS IT?
SAPPHIRE TEAMED UP WITH A PIRATE. CAPTAIN BLOOD, OR SOMETHING.
ALL WE GOTTA DO IS SPREAD THE RUMOR THAT SAPPHIRE WAS PALLING AROUND WITH A LOWLY PIRATE CAPTAIN!
THEN NO ONE WILL DARE SIDE WITH SAPPHIRE.
ALL PIRATES ARE TO BE BEHEADED, ACCORDING TO LAW.
EVEN IF SAPPHIRE'S A PRINCE, HE TOOK UP WITH PIRATES. THAT MEANS PLASTIC'S POSITION AS KING IS SAFE. REST ASSURED.

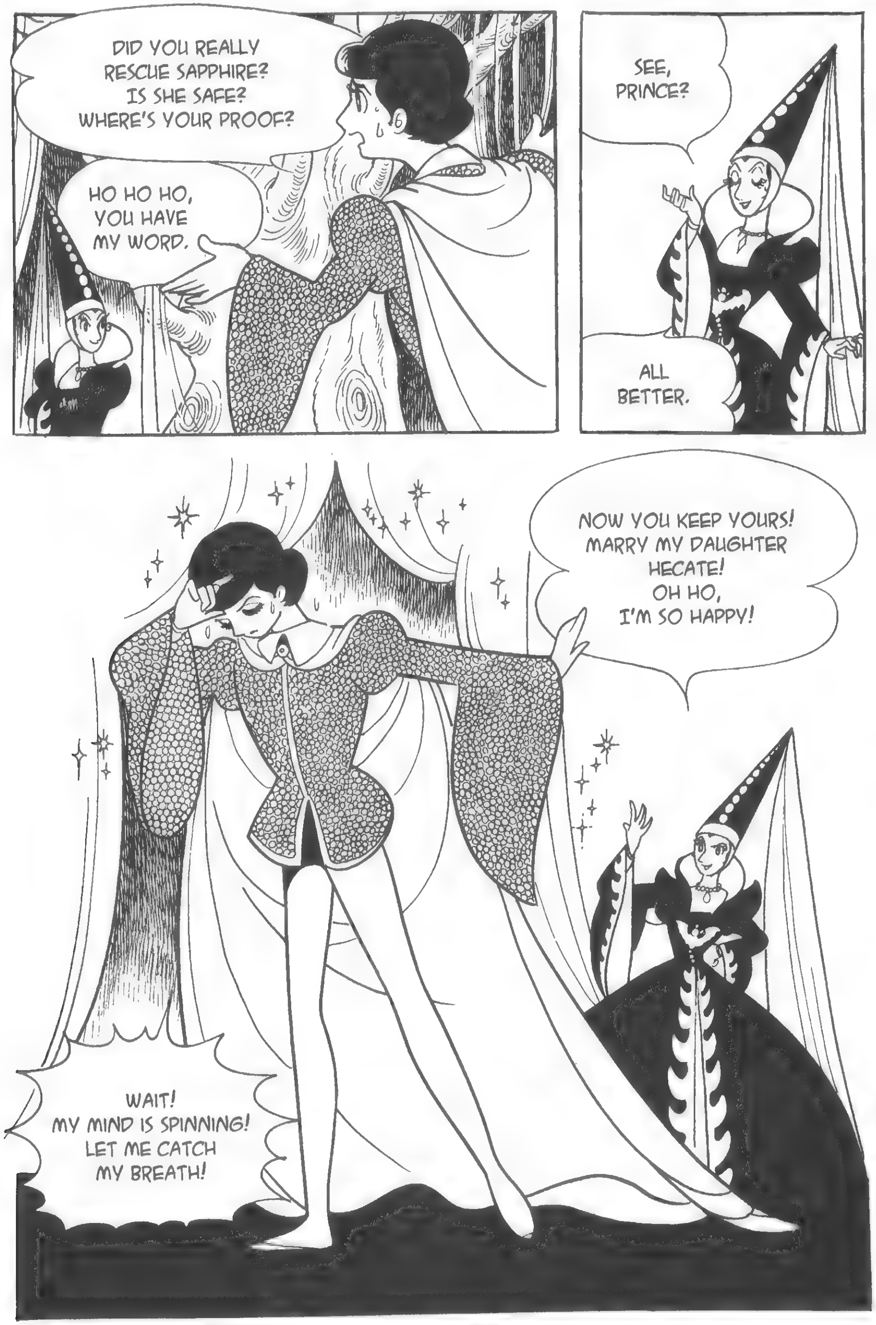

SIR NYLON, YOU SMARTYPANTS, YOU!
BUT YOUR NOSE IS BECOMING NOISOME!
THAT'S HOW IT IS. ARREST SAPPHIRE!
JUST IGNORE THE KING.
LOOK SHARP, MEN!
PRINCE SAPPHIRE, HOW COULD YOU TAKE UP WITH PIRATES?
CURSES! THIS IS ALL YOUR DOING YET AGAIN, NYLON?

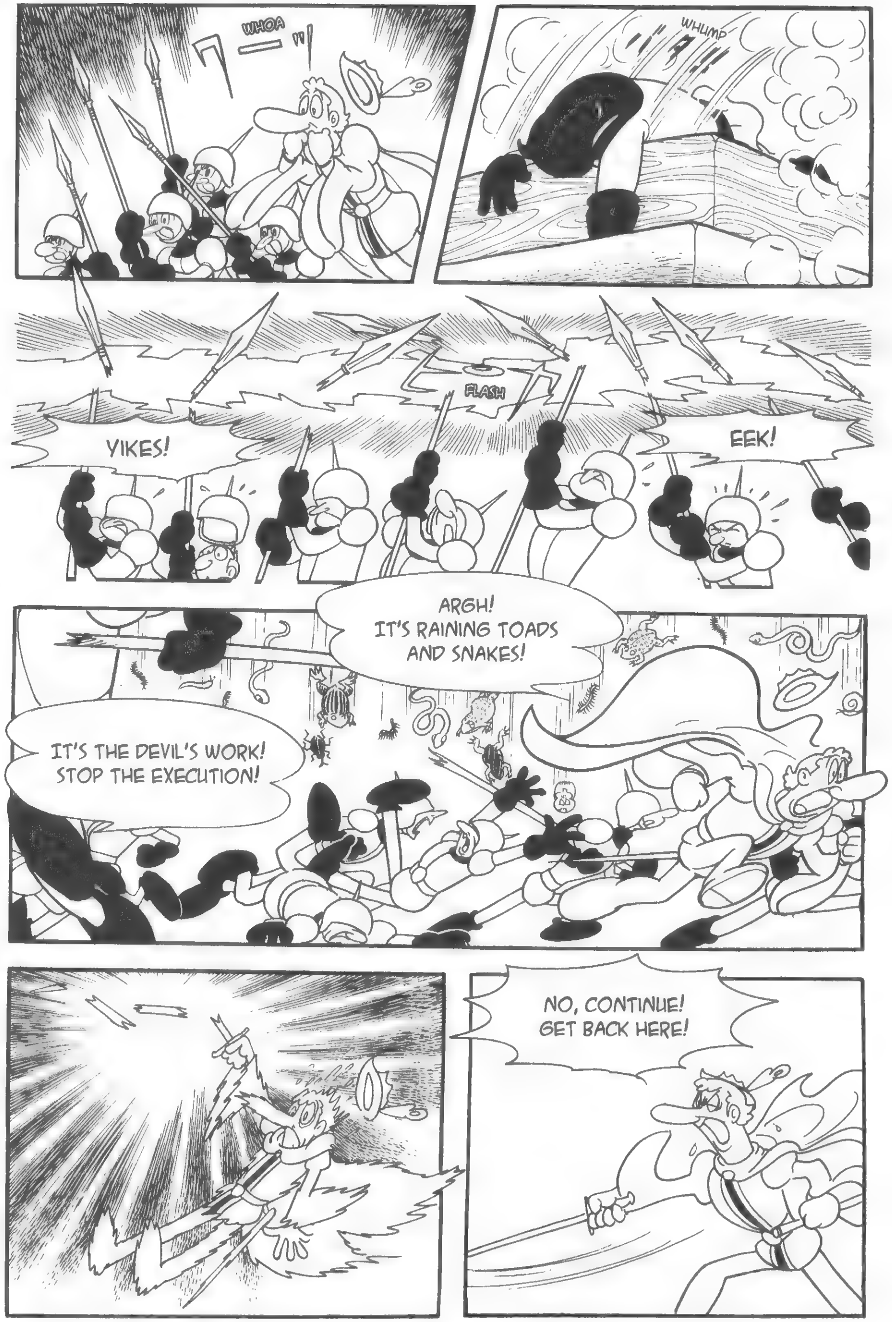

I'M NOT A PIRATE. I ONLY MET BLOOD ON HIS SHIP. AND YET, THEY ARRESTED ME.
BRING SAPPHIRE TO THE EXECUTIONER!
O WOE IS ME! THERE IS NO HOPE! I ONLY WISH I COULD'VE SEEN MY MOTHER RELEASED FROM HER STONY SPELL! AND WHERE ARE YOU, FRANZ? I WANTED TO SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME...
YOU'LL BE BEHEADED RIGHT AT NOON. READY, EXECUTIONER?

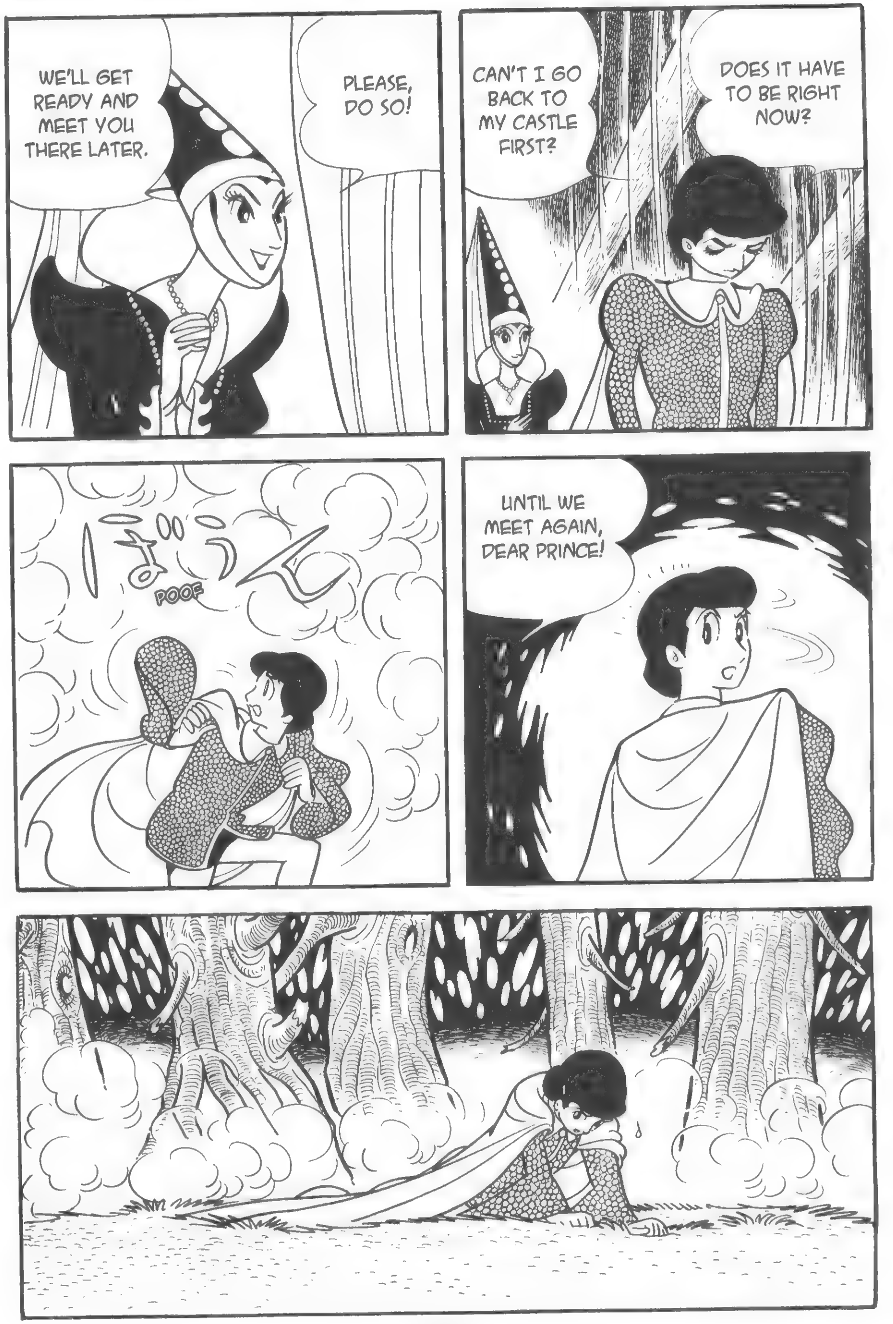

GET ON UP THERE!
DON'T BE BOSSY JUST BECAUSE YOUR PLAN WORKED.
WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO LIE DOWN HERE?
YOU'LL HARDLY FEEL A THING. PROMISE.
I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE A TYKE. WHAT STRANGE FATE THAT WE ENDED UP LIKE THIS.
GO ON. I'M READY.
1 MINUTE 'TIL NOON!
ANY LAST WORDS?
NONE!

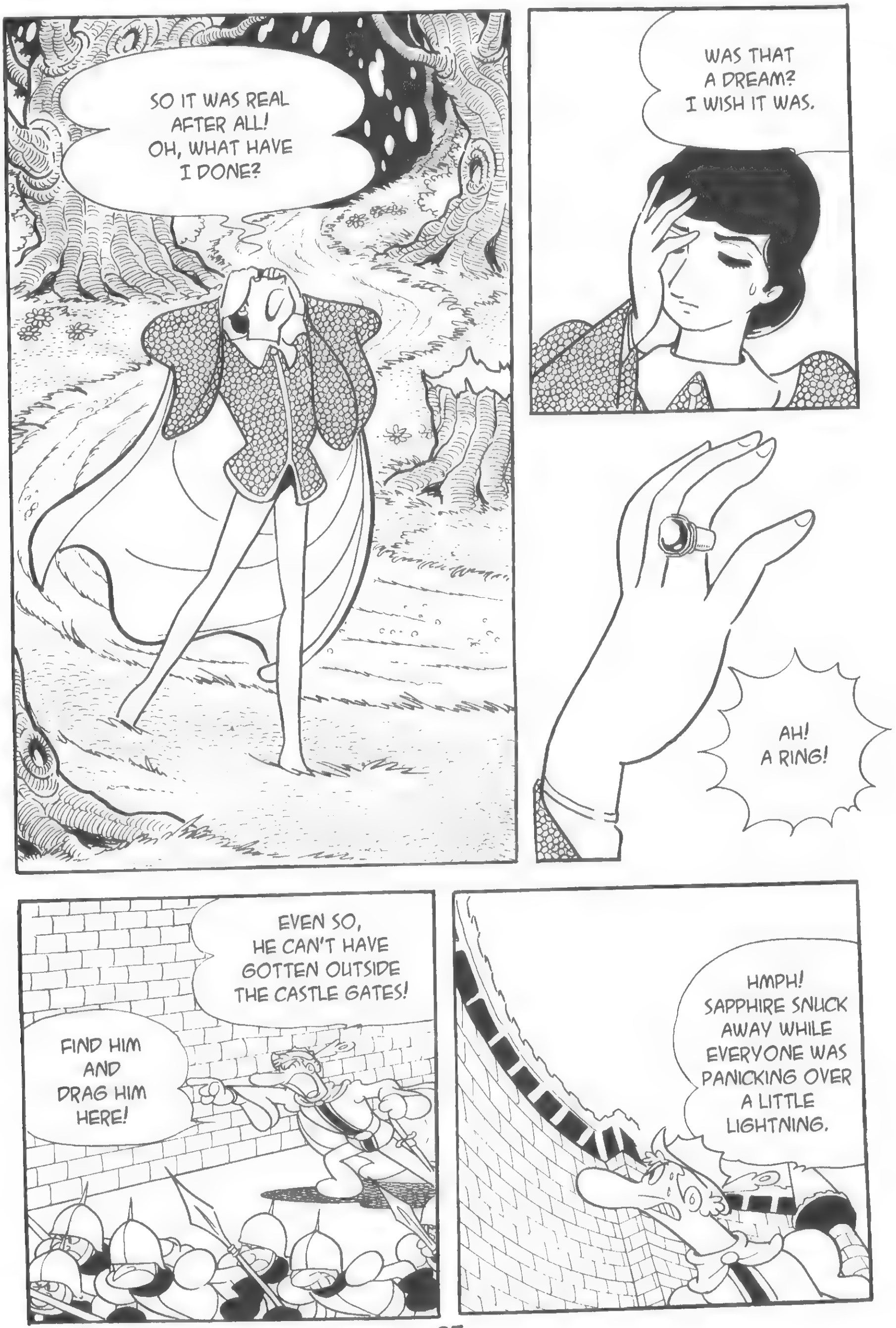

GOOD... BYE... MOTHER...
BRRRRUM
BOOM
BOOM
SEE? THE EXECUTION DRUMS HAVE STARTED. SAPPHIRE'S ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED!
BRUM
BRUM
BRUM
TIME'S UP. MAKE YOUR DECISION— SAVE SAPPHIRE? OR KILL SAPPHIRE?
POOF

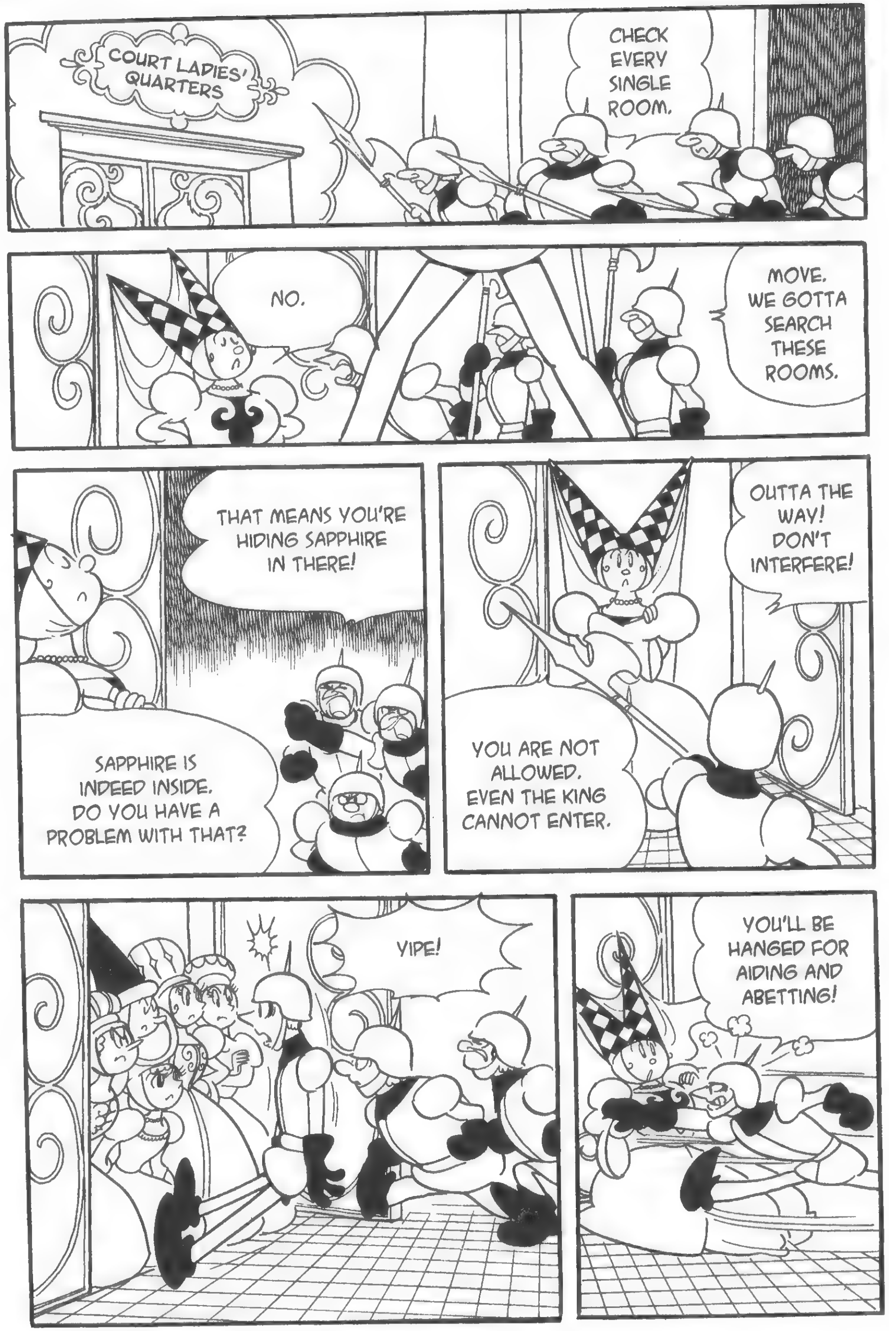

ALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT! I'LL MAKE YOUR DAUGHTER MY QUEEN.
BABA-YAGA!
FLASH
KRASH

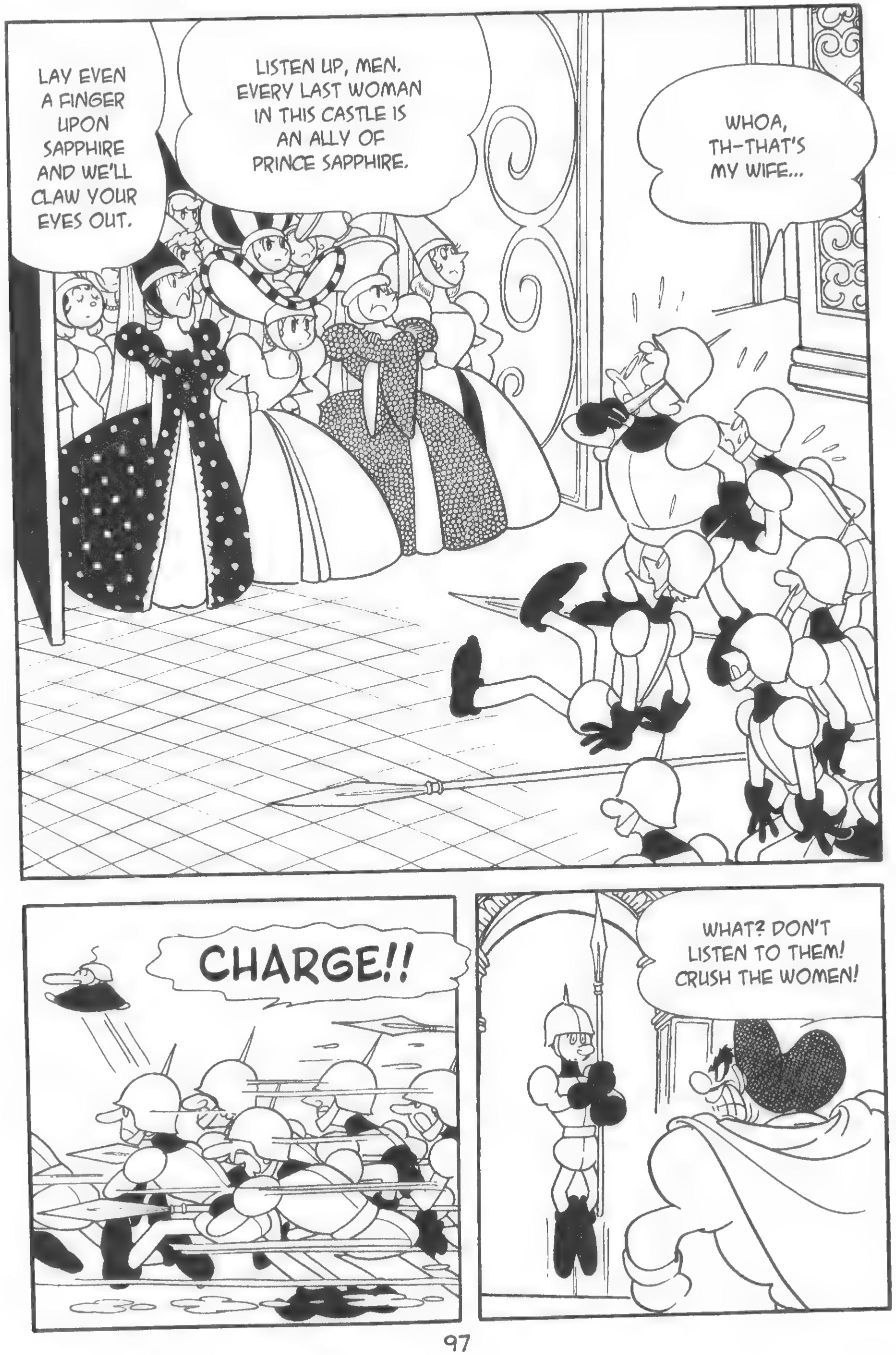

DID YOU REALLY RESCUE SAPPHIRE? IS SHE SAFE? WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?
HO HO HO, YOU HAVE MY WORD.
SEE, PRINCE?
ALL BETTER.
NOW YOU KEEP YOURS! MARRY MY DAUGHTER HECATE! OH HO, I'M SO HAPPY!
WAIT! MY MIND IS SPINNING! LET ME CATCH MY BREATH!

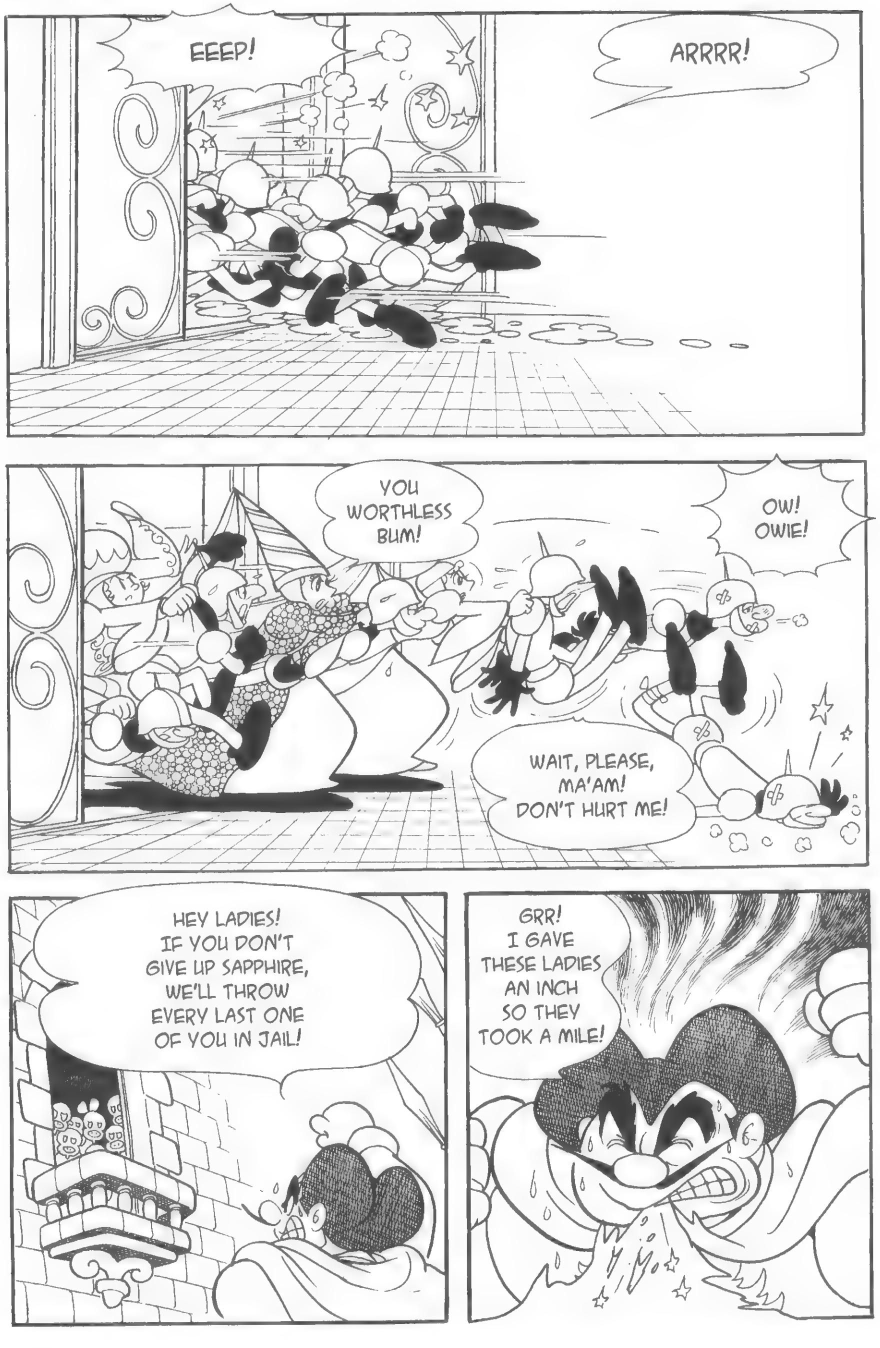

WHOA
WHUMP
FLASH
YIKES!
EEK!
ARGH! IT'S RAINING TOADS AND SNAKES!
IT'S THE DEVIL'S WORK! STOP THE EXECUTION!
NO, CONTINUE! GET BACK HERE!

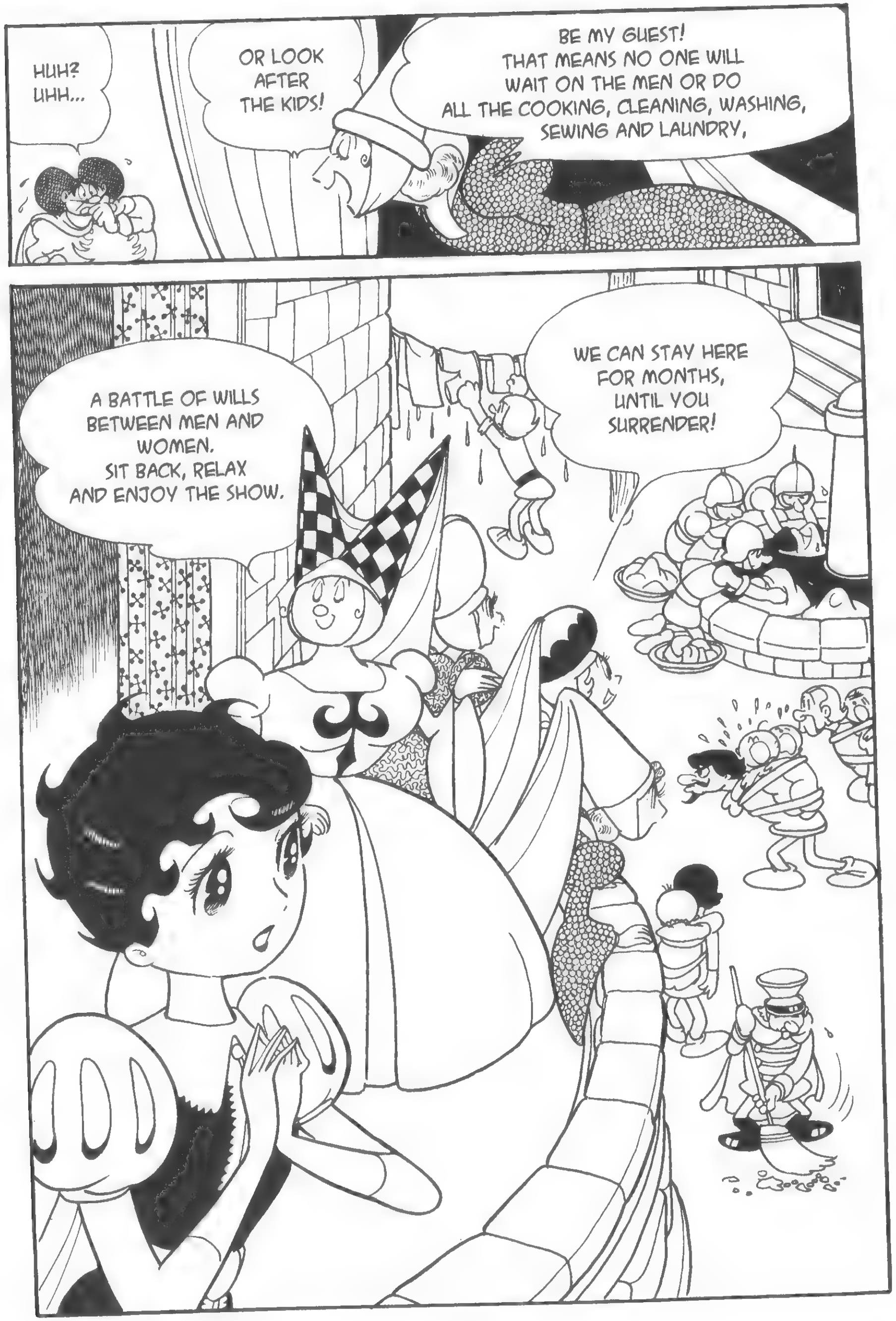

DOES IT HAVE TO BE RIGHT NOW?
CAN'T I GO BACK TO MY CASTLE FIRST?
PLEASE, DO SO!
WE'LL GET READY AND MEET YOU THERE LATER.
UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, DEAR PRINCE!
POOF


WAS THAT A DREAM? I WISH IT WAS.
SO IT WAS REAL AFTER ALL! OH, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
AH! A RING!
HMPH! SAPPHIRE SNUCK AWAY WHILE EVERYONE WAS PANICKING OVER A LITTLE LIGHTNING.
EVEN SO, HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUTSIDE THE CASTLE GATES!
FIND HIM AND DRAG HIM HERE!


CHECK EVERY SINGLE ROOM.
COURT LADIES' QUARTERS
MOVE. WE GOTTA SEARCH THESE ROOMS.
NO.
OUTTA THE WAY! DON'T INTERFERE!
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED. EVEN THE KING CANNOT ENTER.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE HIDING SAPPHIRE IN THERE!
SAPPHIRE IS INDEED INSIDE. DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
YOU'LL BE HANGED FOR AIDING AND ABETTING!
YIPE!


WHOA, TH-THAT'S MY WIFE...
LISTEN UP, MEN. EVERY LAST WOMAN IN THIS CASTLE IS AN ALLY OF PRINCE SAPPHIRE.
LAY EVEN A FINGER UPON SAPPHIRE AND WE'LL CLAW YOUR EYES OUT.
WHAT? DON'T LISTEN TO THEM! CRUSH THE WOMEN!
CHARGE!!

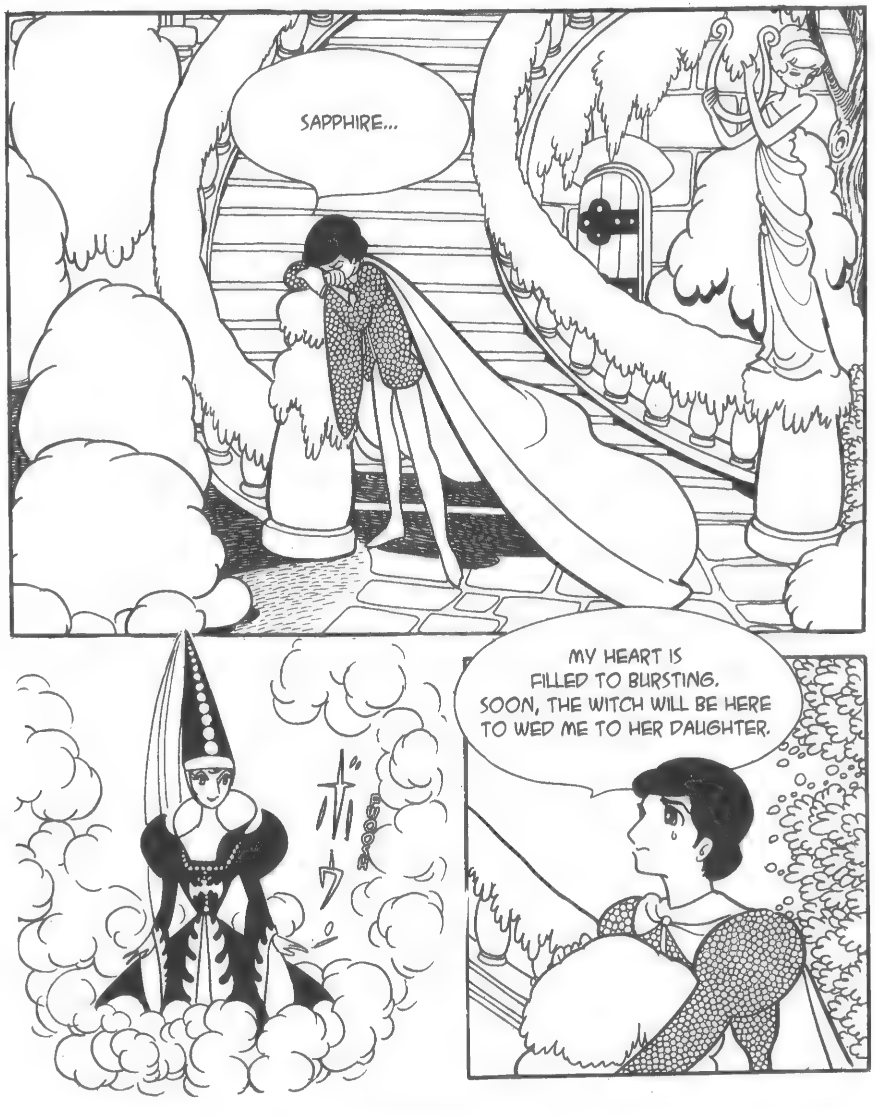

ARRRR!
EEEP!
OW! OWIE!
YOU WORTHLESS BUM!
WAIT, PLEASE, MA'AM! DON'T HURT ME!
GRR! I GAVE THESE LADIES AN INCH SO THEY TOOK A MILE!
HEY LADIES! IF YOU DON'T GIVE UP SAPPHIRE, WE'LL THROW EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU IN JAIL!

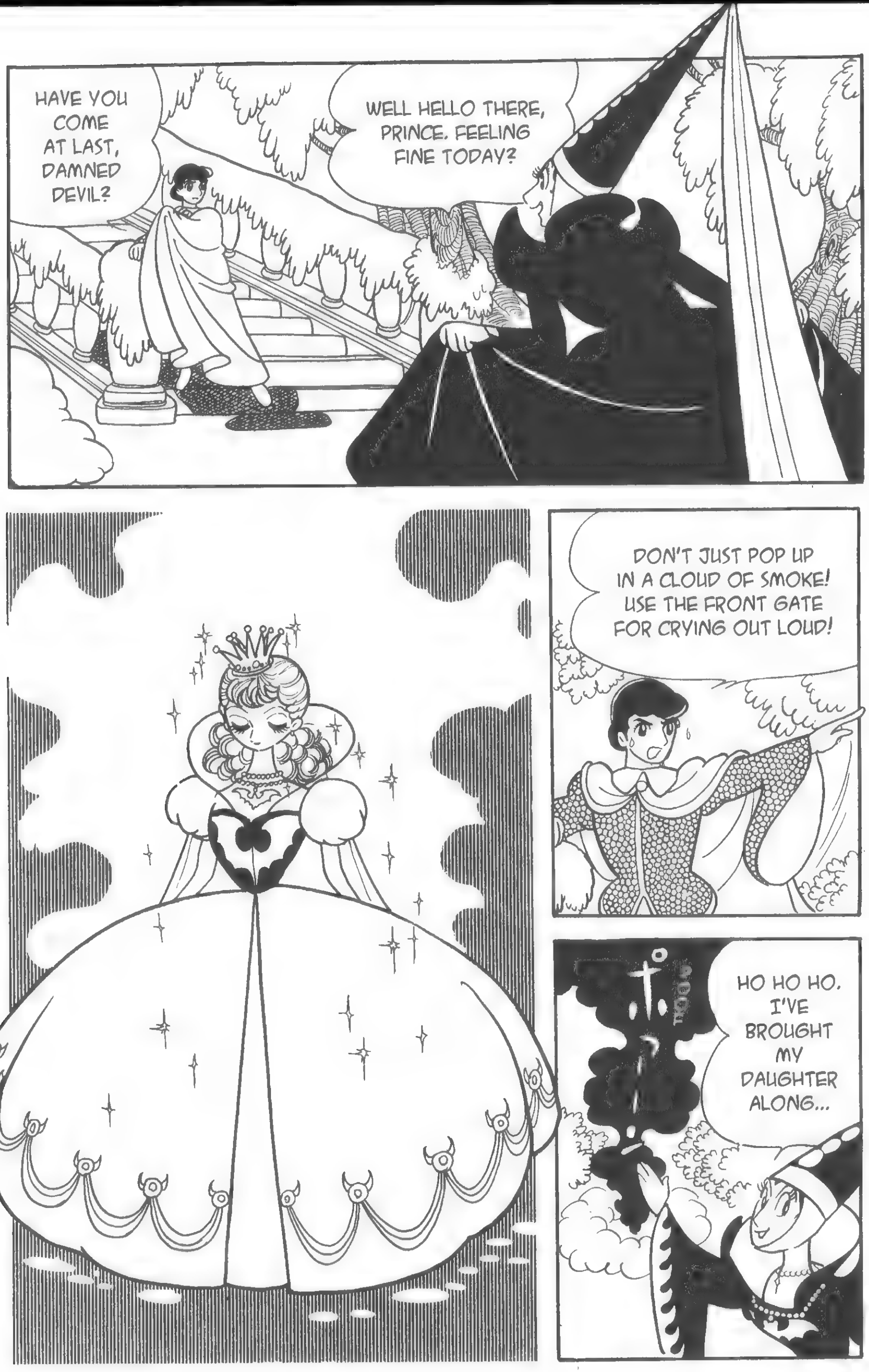

BE MY GUEST! THAT MEANS NO ONE WILL WAIT ON THE MEN OR DO ALL THE COOKING, CLEANING, WASHING, SEWING AND LAUNDRY,
OR LOOK AFTER THE KIDS!
HUH? UHH...
WE CAN STAY HERE FOR MONTHS, UNTIL YOU SURRENDER!
A BATTLE OF WILLS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN. SIT BACK, RELAX AND ENJOY THE SHOW.

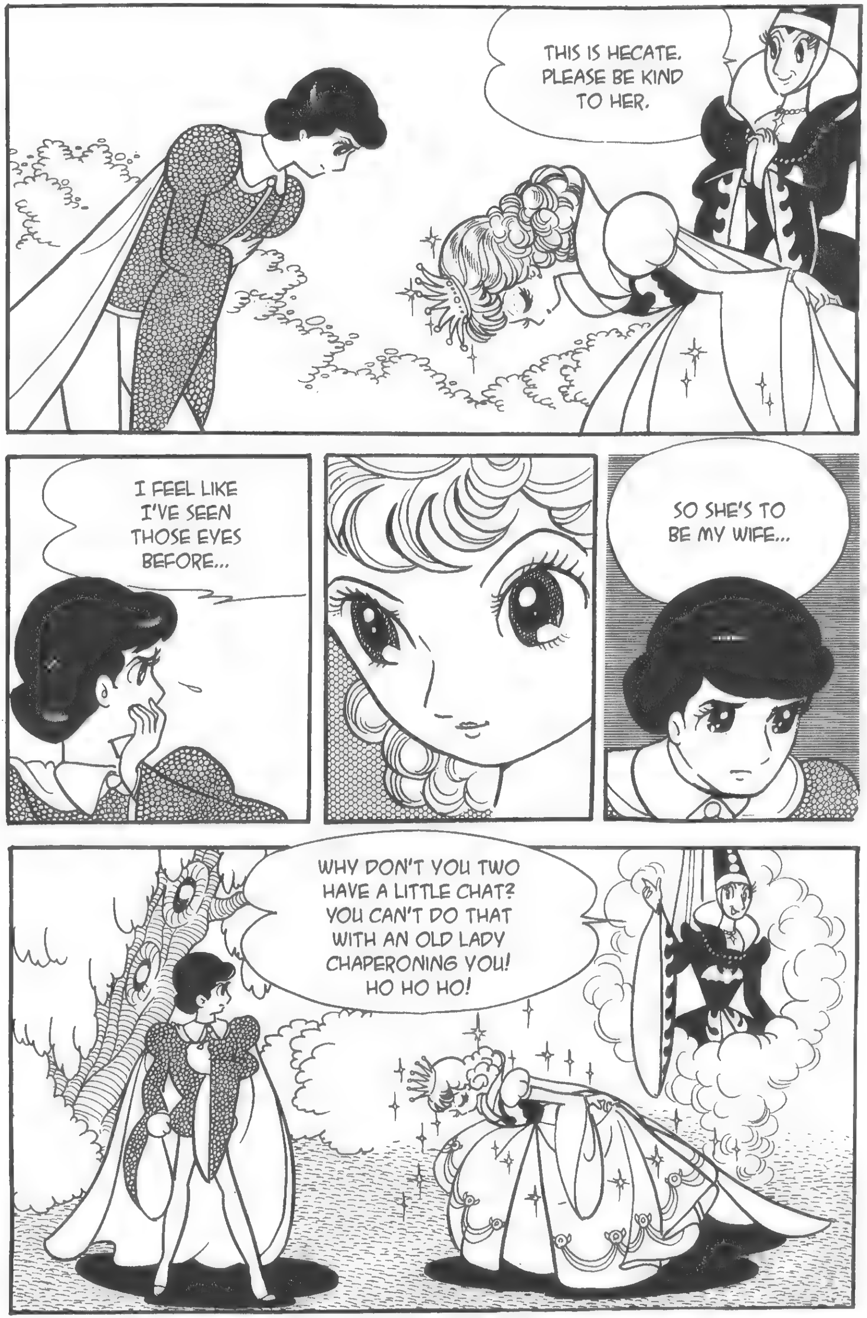
Chapter 20

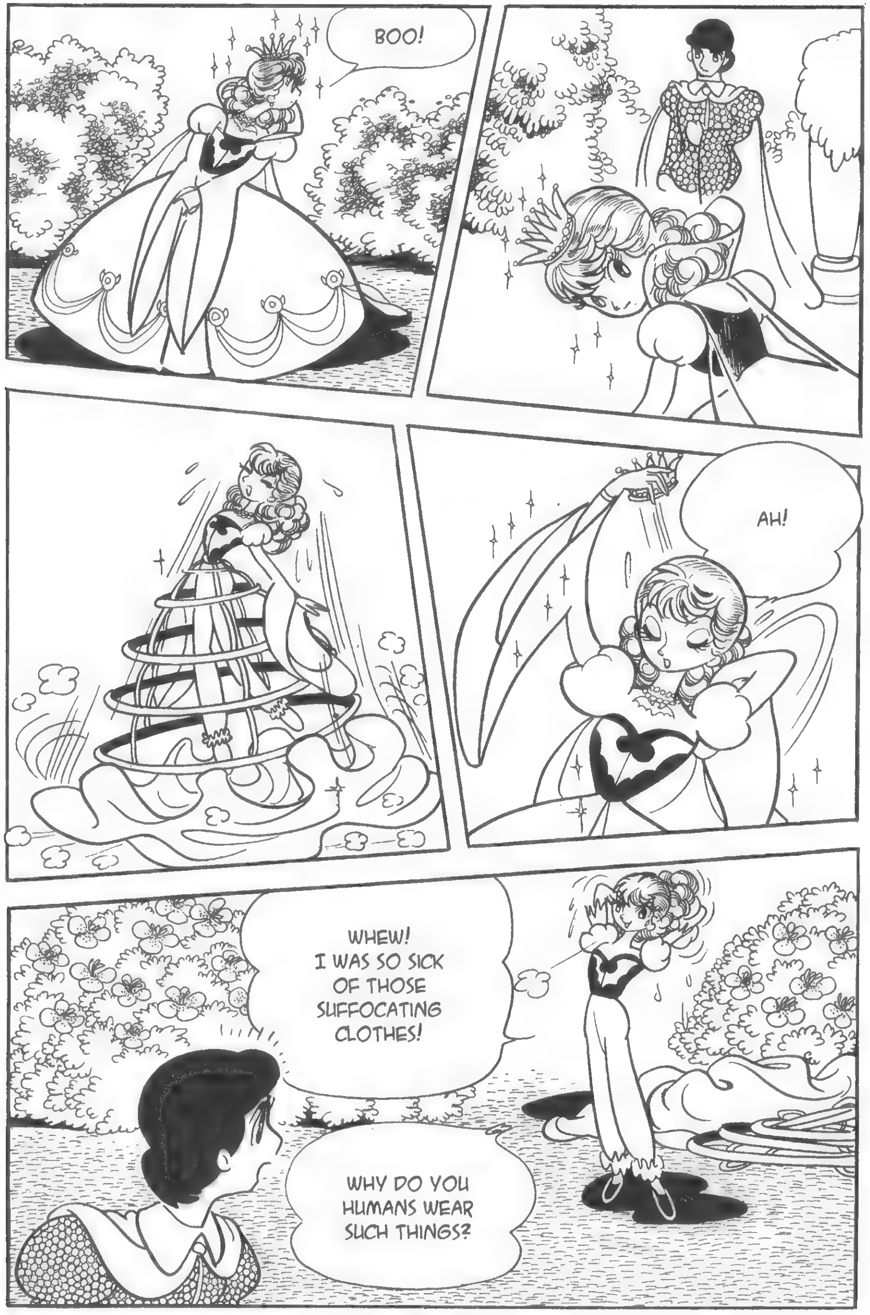
Warring Women

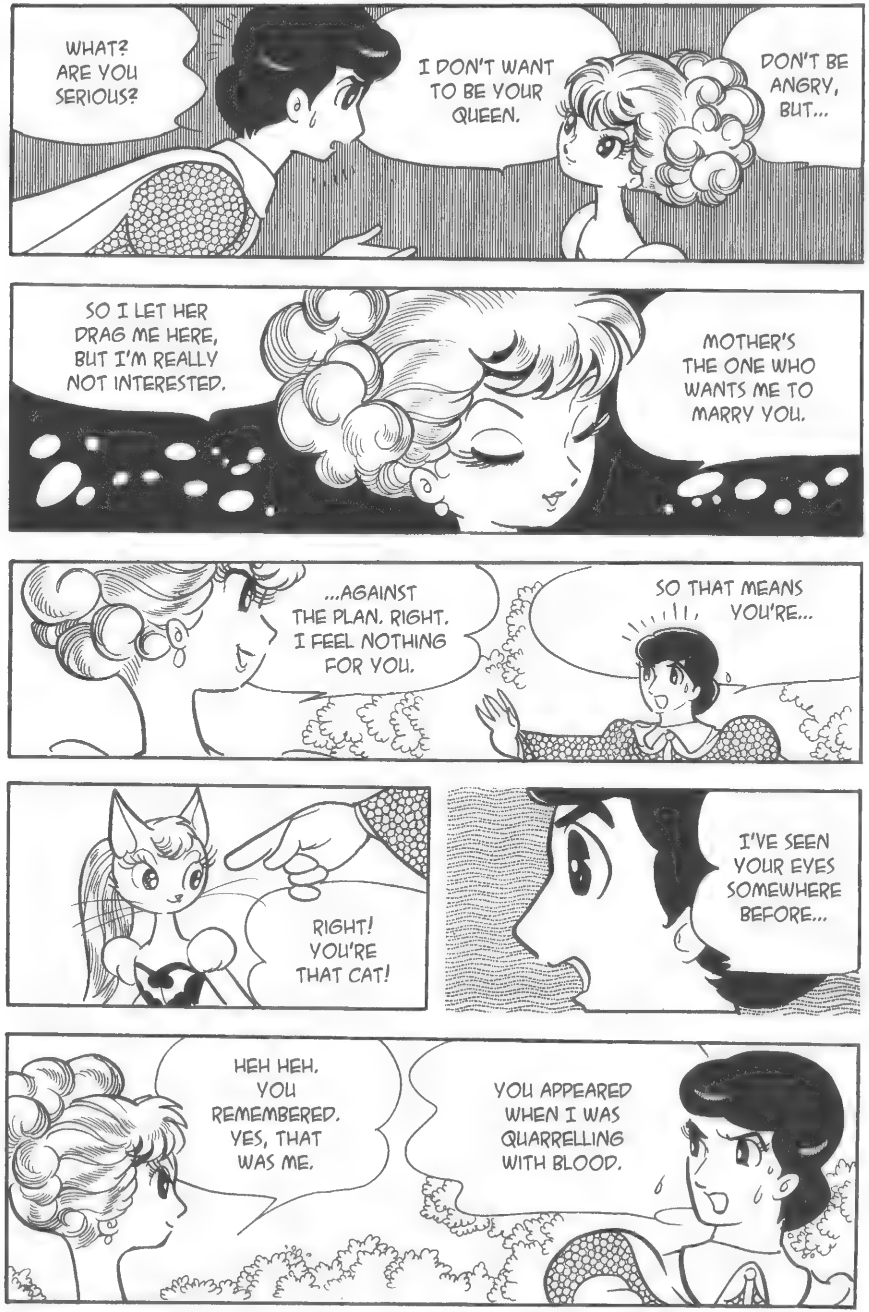
BACK IN HIS CASTLE, PRINCE FRANZ'S HEART ACHED WITH REGRET OVER THE PROMISE HE MADE TO MADAME HELL. BUT THERE WAS NO GOING BACK. HE WALLOWED IN SORROW AS HE FELT THE INEXORABLE TUG OF DESTINY.

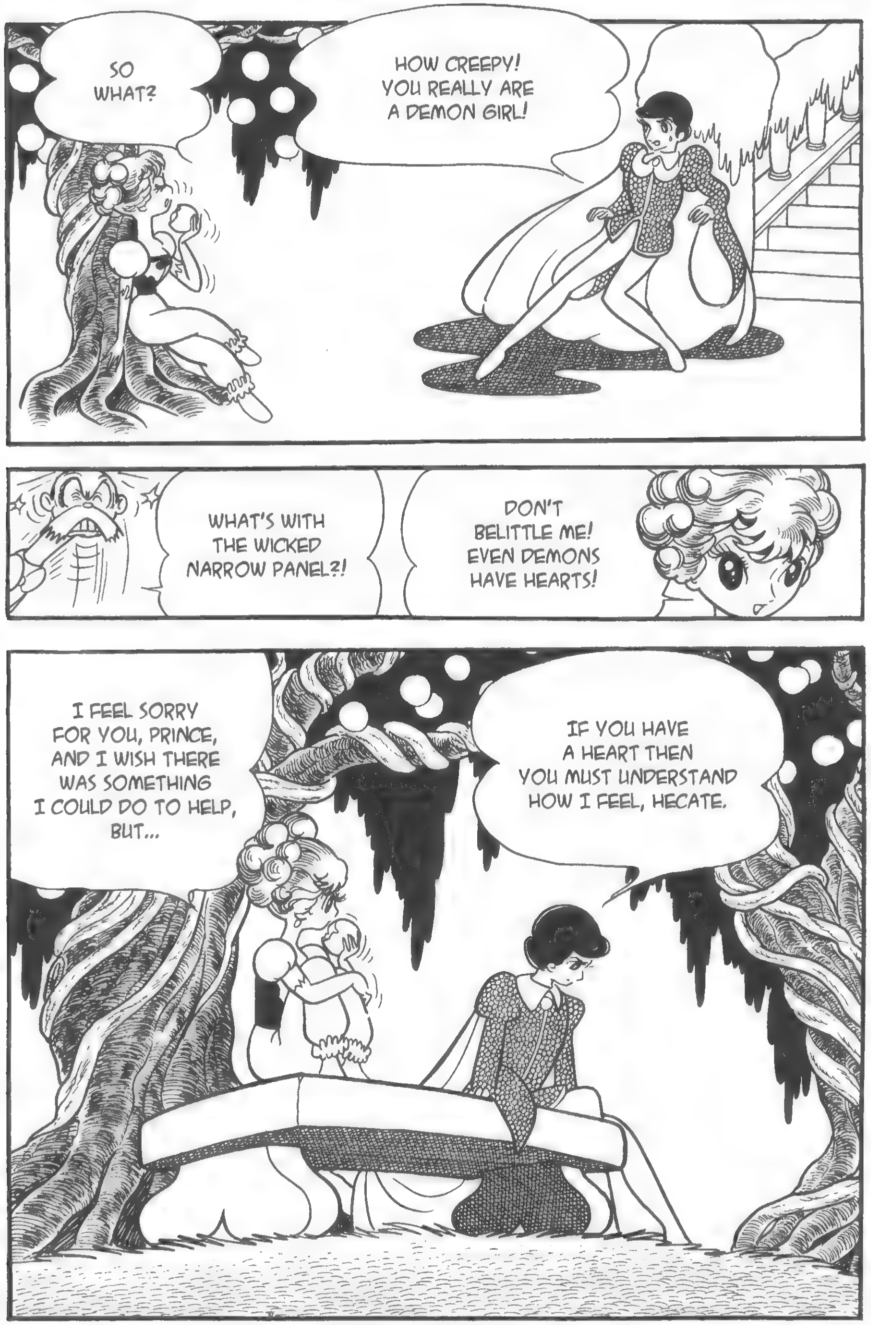

SAPPHIRE...
MY HEART IS FILLED TO BURSTING. SOON, THE WITCH WILL BE HERE TO WED ME TO HER DAUGHTER.

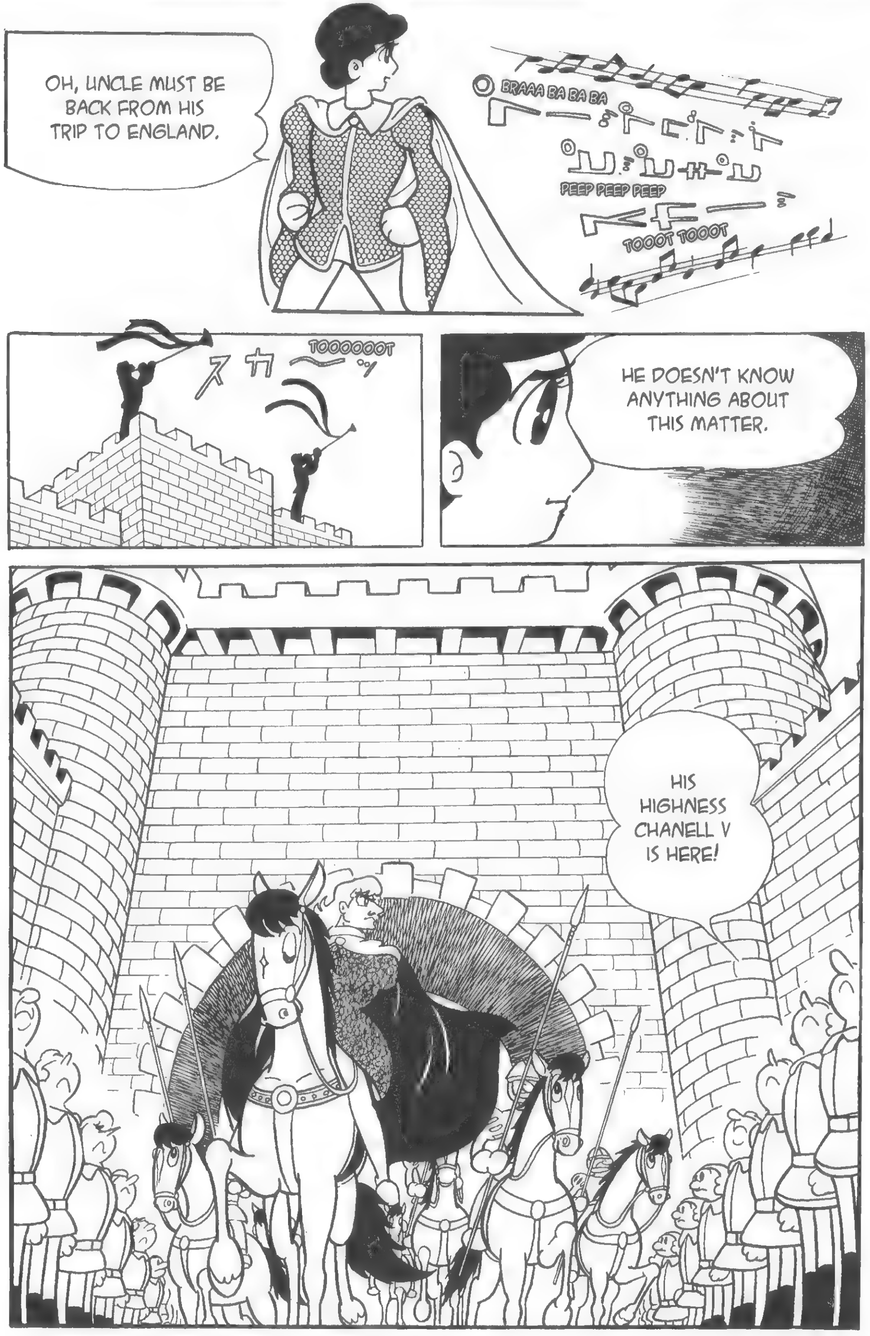

WELL HELLO THERE, PRINCE. FEELING FINE TODAY?
HAVE YOU COME AT LAST, DAMNED DEVIL?
DON'T JUST POP UP IN A CLOUD OF SMOKE! USE THE FRONT GATE FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
HO HO HO. I'VE BROUGHT MY DAUGHTER ALONG...

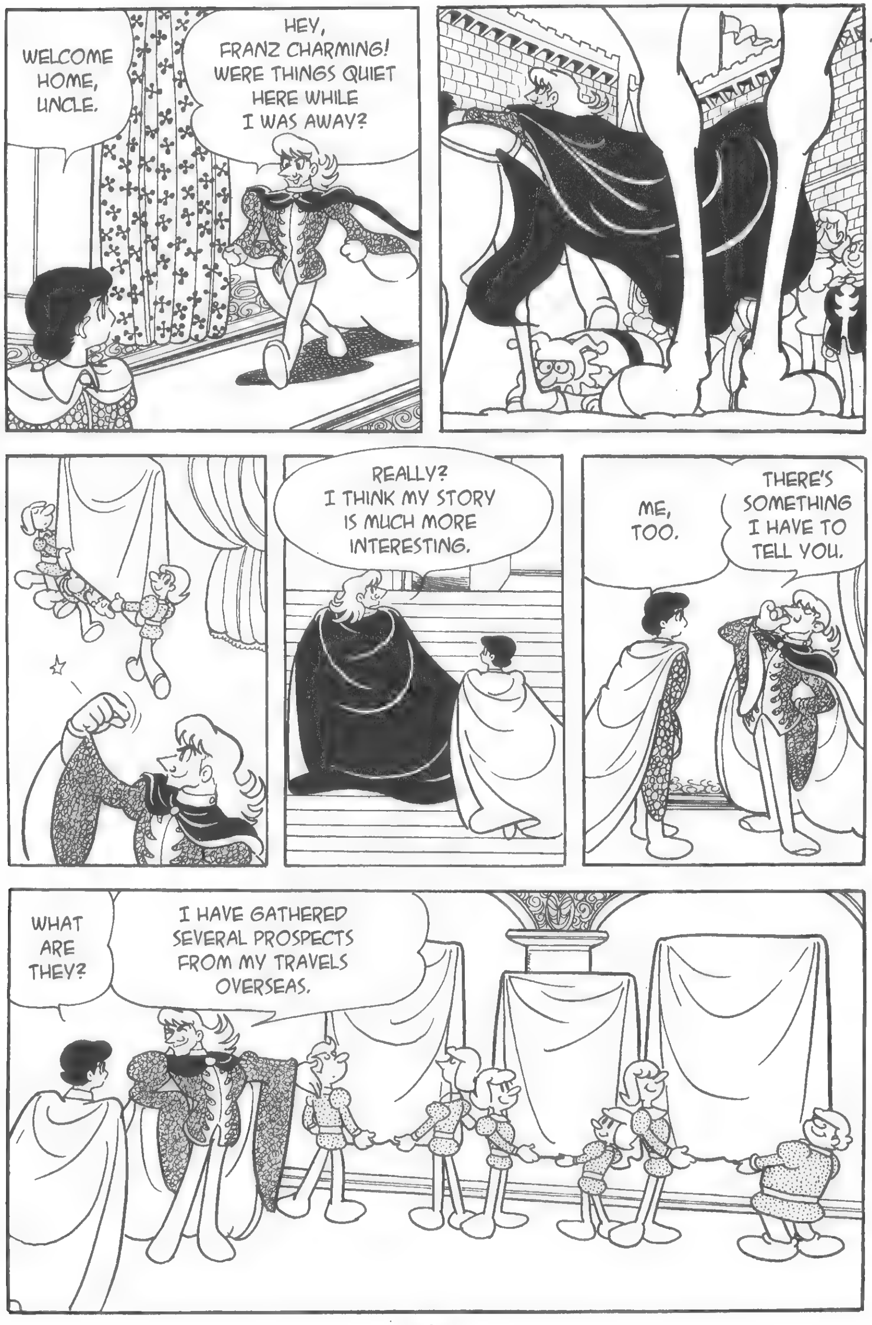

THIS IS HECATE. PLEASE BE KIND TO HER.
SO SHE'S TO BE MY WIFE...
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN THOSE EYES BEFORE...
WHY DON'T YOU TWO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT? YOU CAN'T DO THAT WITH AN OLD LADY CHAPERONING YOU! HO HO HO!

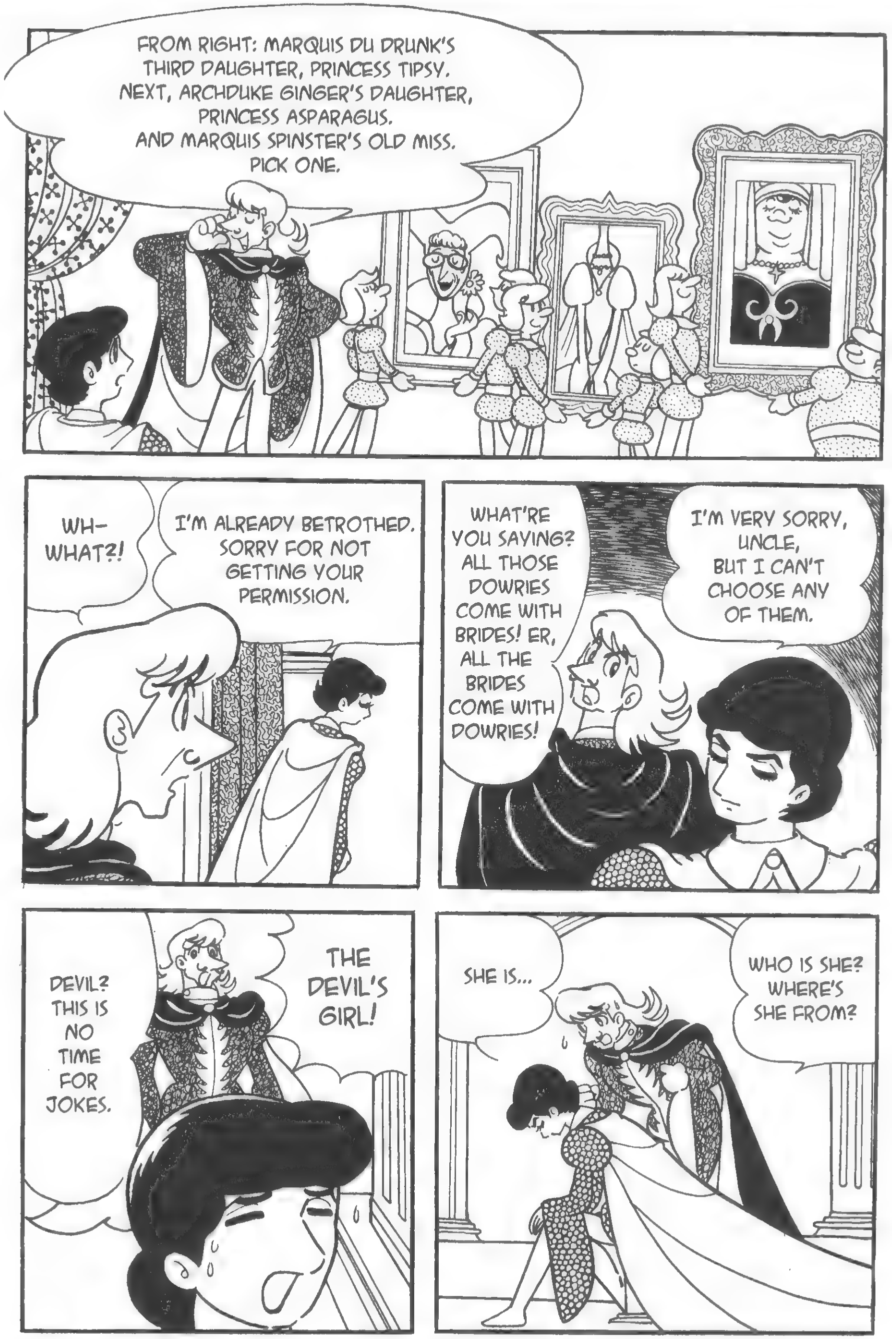

BOO!
AH!
WHEW! I WAS SO SICK OF THOSE SUFFOCATING CLOTHES!
WHY DO YOU HUMANS WEAR SUCH THINGS?

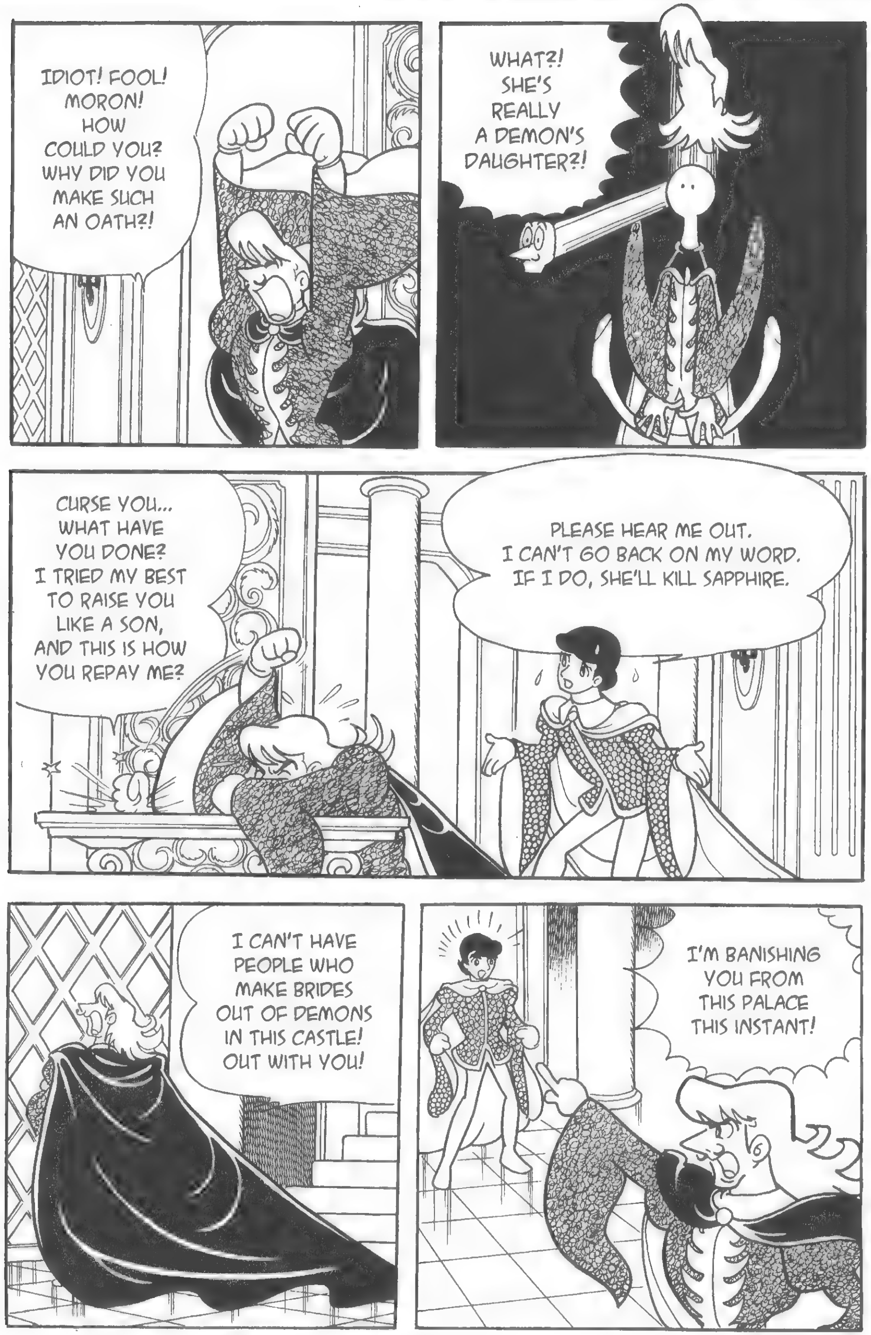

DON'T BE ANGRY, BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR QUEEN.
WHAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
MOTHER'S THE ONE WHO WANTS ME TO MARRY YOU.
SO I LET HER DRAG ME HERE, BUT I'M REALLY NOT INTERESTED.
SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE...
...AGAINST THE PLAN. RIGHT. I FEEL NOTHING FOR YOU.
I'VE SEEN YOUR EYES SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
RIGHT! YOU'RE THAT CAT!
YOU APPEARED WHEN I WAS QUARRELLING WITH BLOOD.
HEH HEH. YOU REMEMBERED. YES, THAT WAS ME.

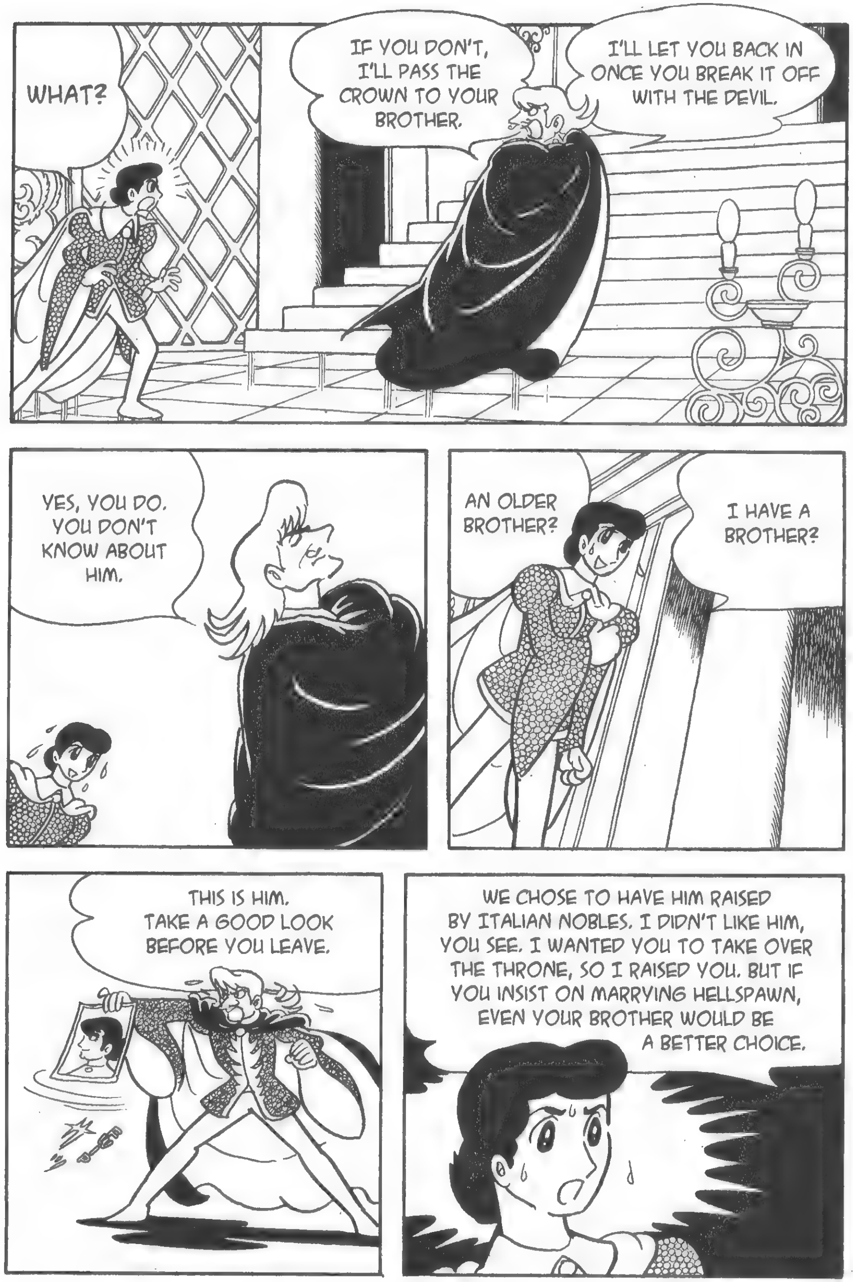

HOW CREEPY! YOU REALLY ARE A DEMON GIRL!
SO WHAT?
DON'T BELITTLE ME! EVEN DEMONS HAVE HEARTS!
WHAT'S WITH THE WICKED NARROW PANEL?!
IF YOU HAVE A HEART THEN YOU MUST UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL, HECATE.
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, PRINCE, AND I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP, BUT...

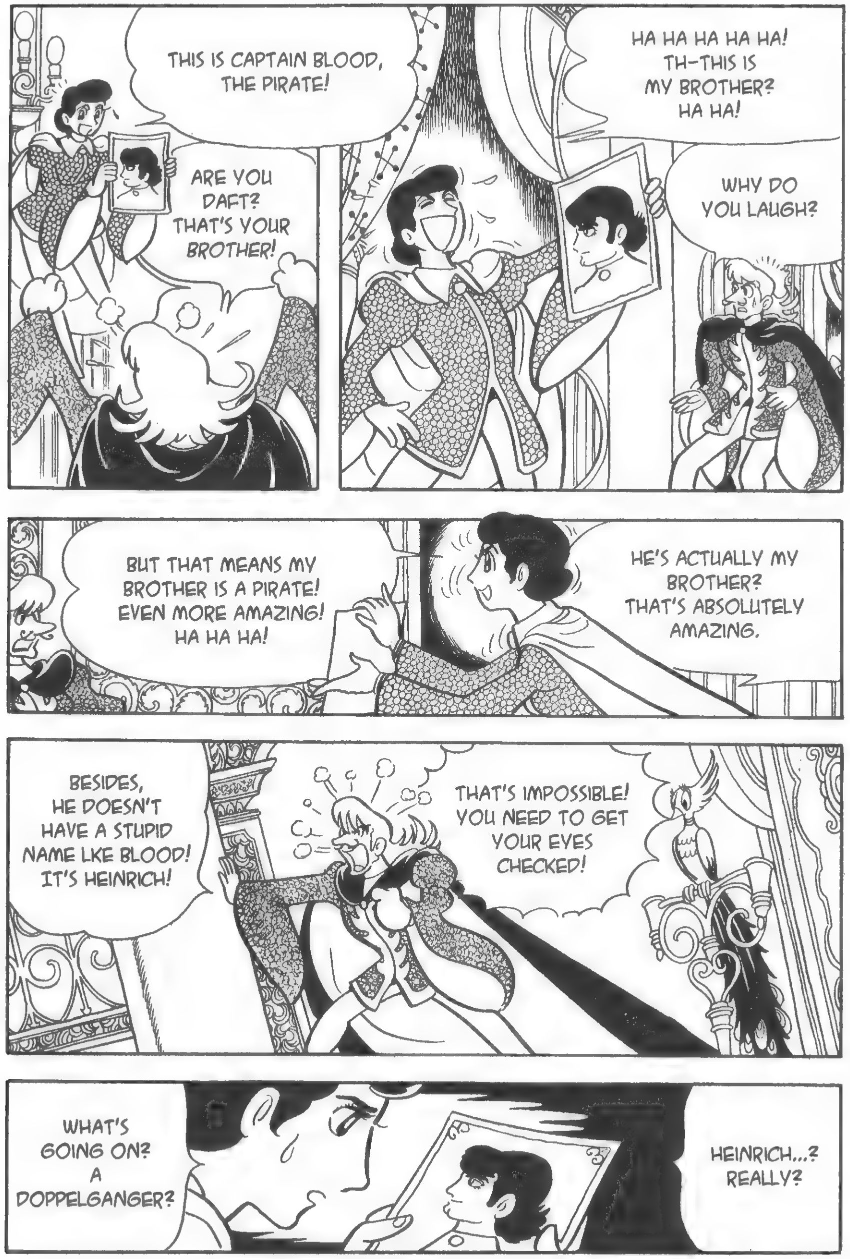

BRAAA BA BA BA
PEEP PEEP PEEP
TOOOT TOOOT
OH, UNCLE MUST BE BACK FROM HIS TRIP TO ENGLAND.
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER.
TOOOOOOT
スカ〜ッ
HIS HIGHNESS CHANELL V IS HERE!


HEY, FRANZ CHARMING! WERE THINGS QUIET HERE WHILE I WAS AWAY?
WELCOME HOME, UNCLE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO TELL YOU.
ME, TOO.
REALLY? I THINK MY STORY IS MUCH MORE INTERESTING.
I HAVE GATHERED SEVERAL PROSPECTS FROM MY TRAVELS OVERSEAS.
WHAT ARE THEY?

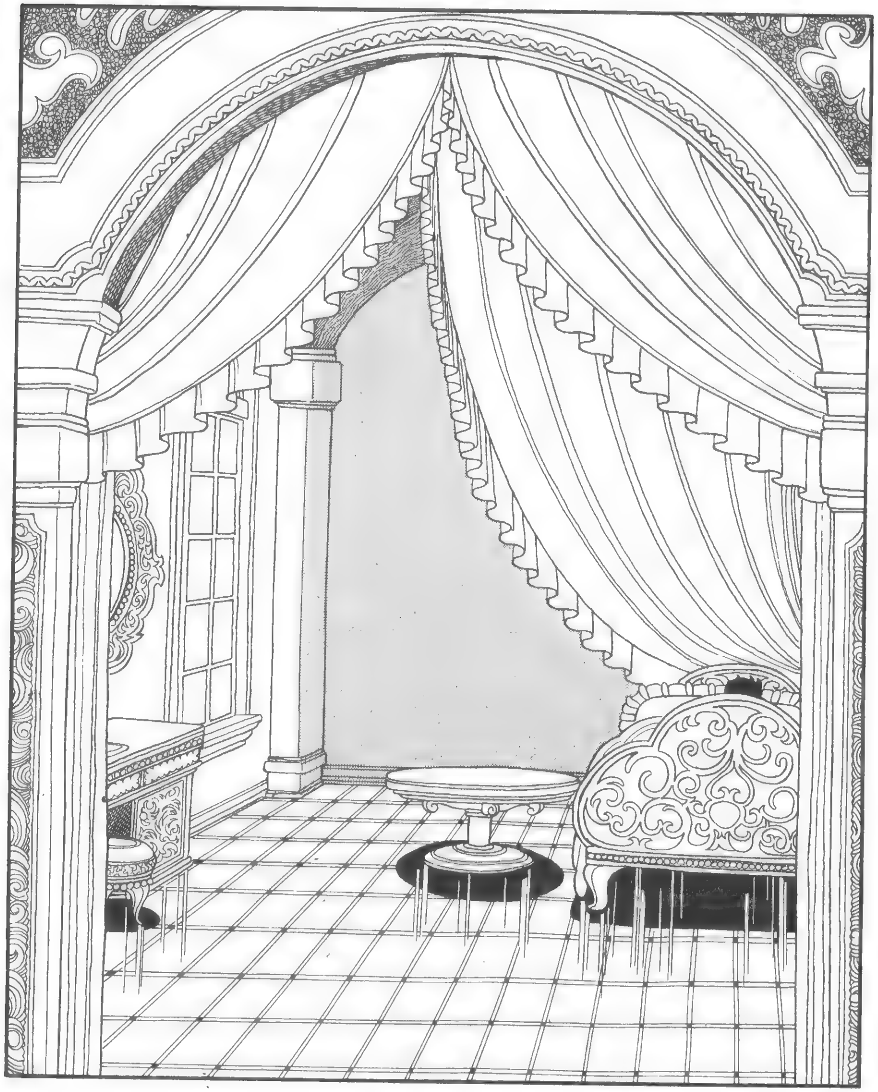

FROM RIGHT: MARQUIS DU DRUNK'S THIRD DAUGHTER, PRINCESS TIPSY. NEXT, ARCHDUKE GINGER'S DAUGHTER, PRINCESS ASPARAGUS. AND MARQUIS SPINSTER'S OLD MISS. PICK ONE.
I'M VERY SORRY, UNCLE, BUT I CAN'T CHOOSE ANY OF THEM.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? ALL THOSE DOWRIES COME WITH BRIDES! ER, ALL THE BRIDES COME WITH DOWRIES!
I'M ALREADY BETROTHED. SORRY FOR NOT GETTING YOUR PERMISSION.
WH- WHAT?!
WHO IS SHE? WHERE'S SHE FROM?
SHE IS...
THE DEVIL'S GIRL!
DEVIL? THIS IS NO TIME FOR JOKES.

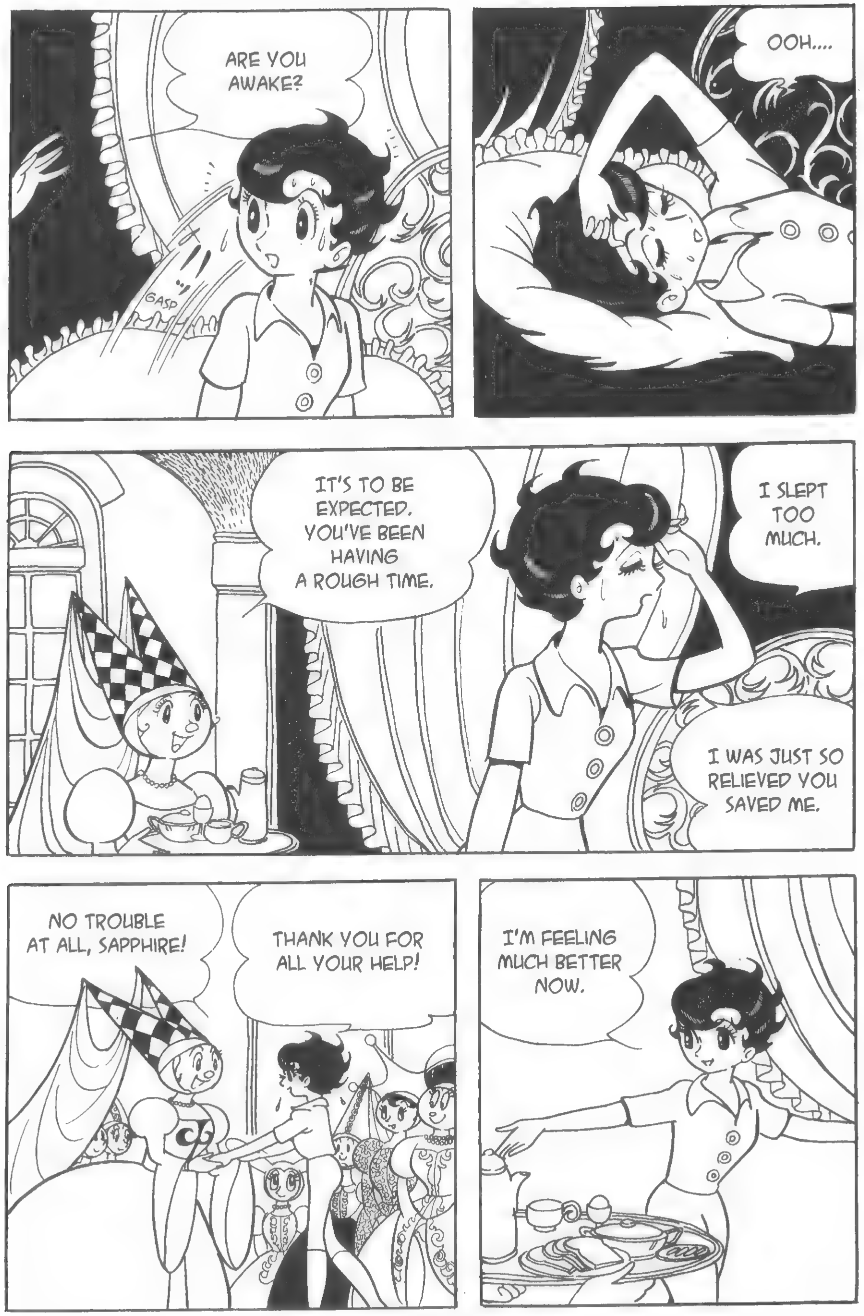

WHAT?! SHE'S REALLY A DEMON'S DAUGHTER?!
IDIOT! FOOL! MORON! HOW COULD YOU? WHY DID YOU MAKE SUCH AN OATH?!
PLEASE HEAR ME OUT. I CAN'T GO BACK ON MY WORD. IF I DO, SHE'LL KILL SAPPHIRE.
CURSE YOU... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? I TRIED MY BEST TO RAISE YOU LIKE A SON, AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME?
I'M BANISHING YOU FROM THIS PALACE THIS INSTANT!
I CAN'T HAVE PEOPLE WHO MAKE BRIDES OUT OF DEMONS IN THIS CASTLE! OUT WITH YOU!

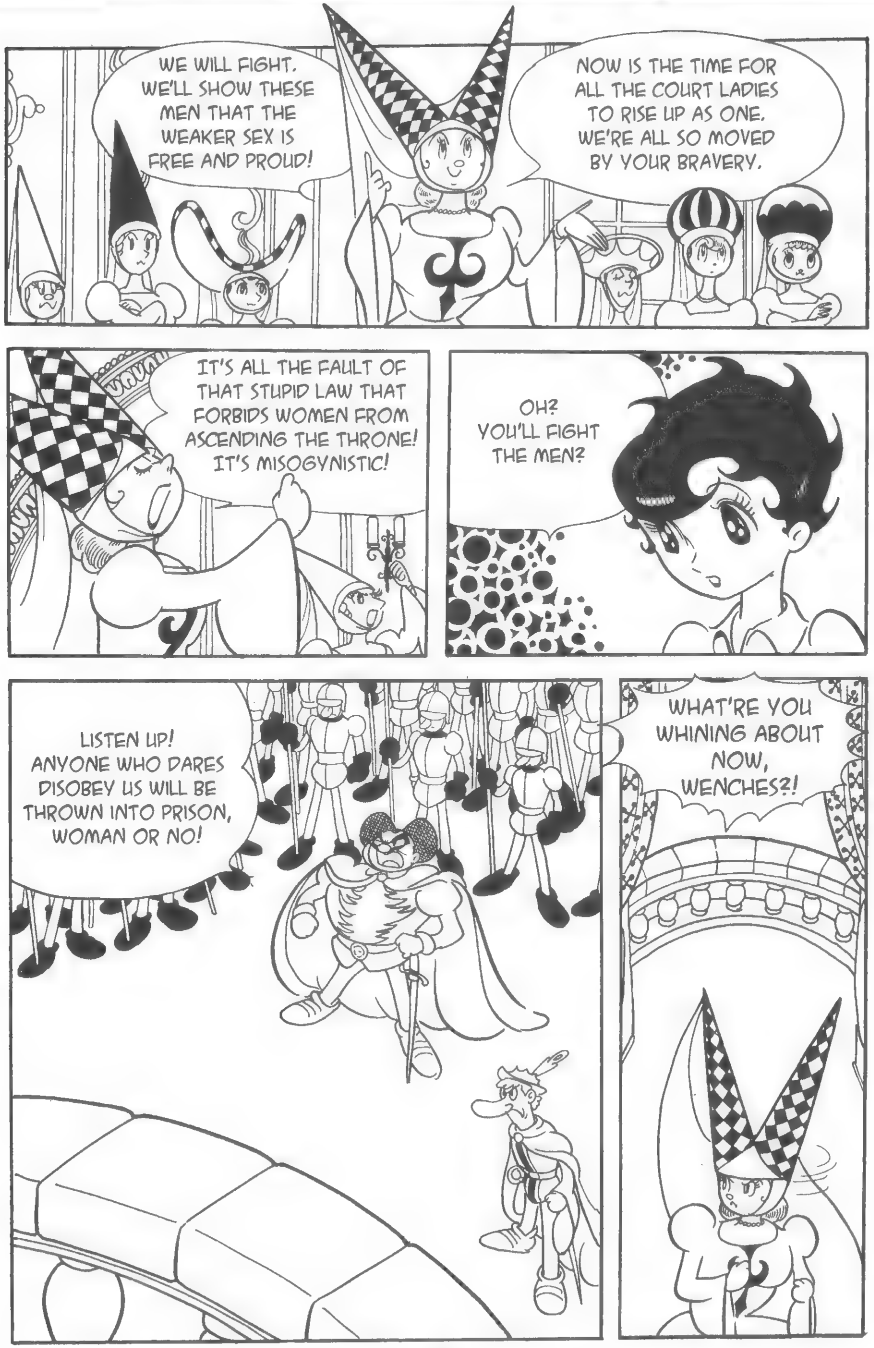

I'LL LET YOU BACK IN ONCE YOU BREAK IT OFF WITH THE DEVIL.
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL PASS THE CROWN TO YOUR BROTHER.
WHAT?
I HAVE A BROTHER?
AN OLDER BROTHER?
YES, YOU DO. YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM.
WE CHOSE TO HAVE HIM RAISED BY ITALIAN NOBLES. I DIDN'T LIKE HIM, YOU SEE. I WANTED YOU TO TAKE OVER THE THRONE, SO I RAISED YOU. BUT IF YOU INSIST ON MARRYING HELLSPAWN, EVEN YOUR BROTHER WOULD BE A BETTER CHOICE.
THIS IS HIM. TAKE A GOOD LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

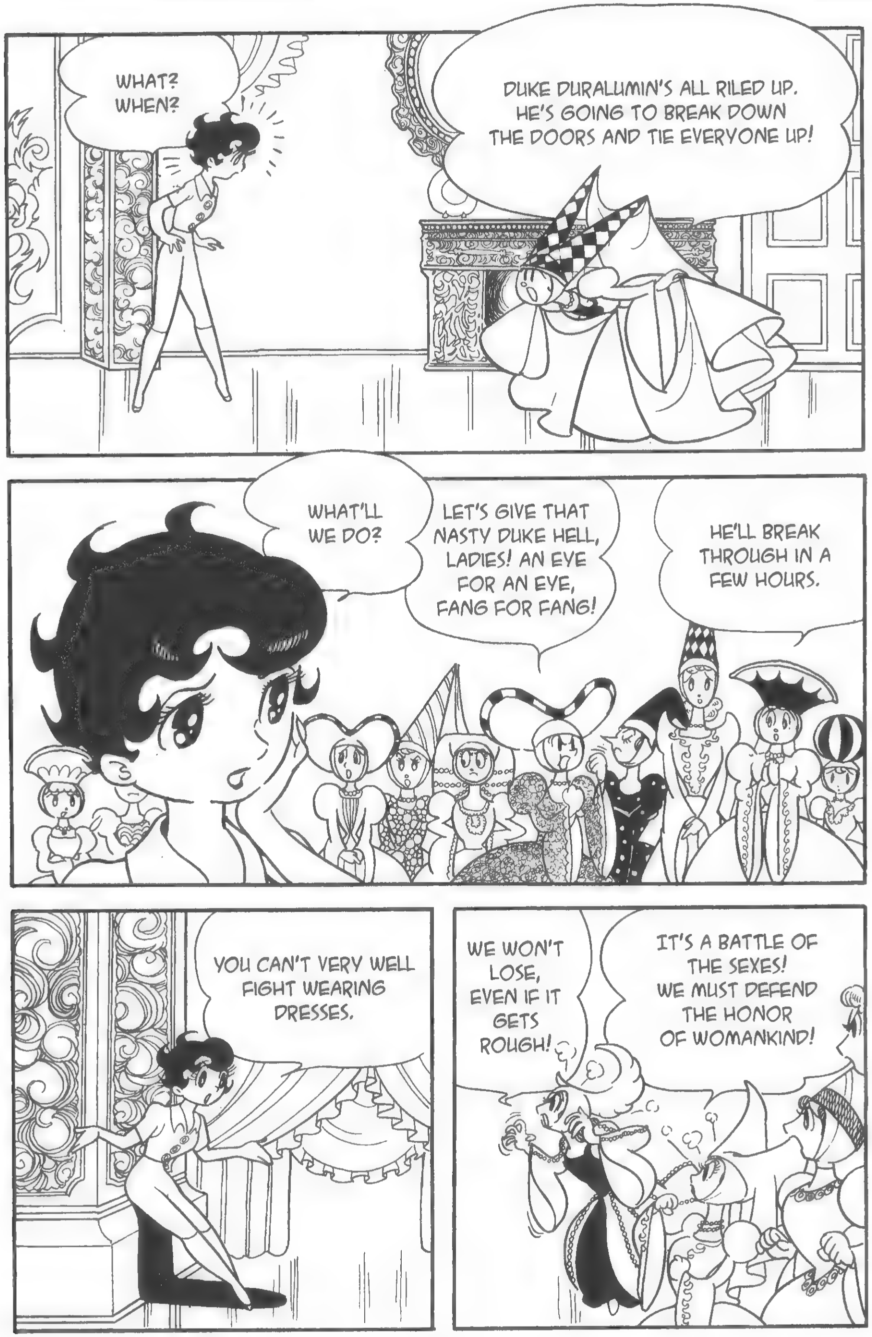

WHY DO YOU LAUGH?
HA HA HA HA HA! TH-THIS IS MY BROTHER? HA HA!
THIS IS CAPTAIN BLOOD, THE PIRATE!
ARE YOU DAFT? THAT'S YOUR BROTHER!
HE'S ACTUALLY MY BROTHER? THAT'S ABSOLUTELY AMAZING.
BUT THAT MEANS MY BROTHER IS A PIRATE! EVEN MORE AMAZING! HA HA HA!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU NEED TO GET YOUR EYES CHECKED!
BESIDES, HE DOESN'T HAVE A STUPID NAME LKE BLOOD! IT'S HEINRICH!
HEINRICH...? REALLY?
WHAT'S GOING ON? A DOPPELGANGER?

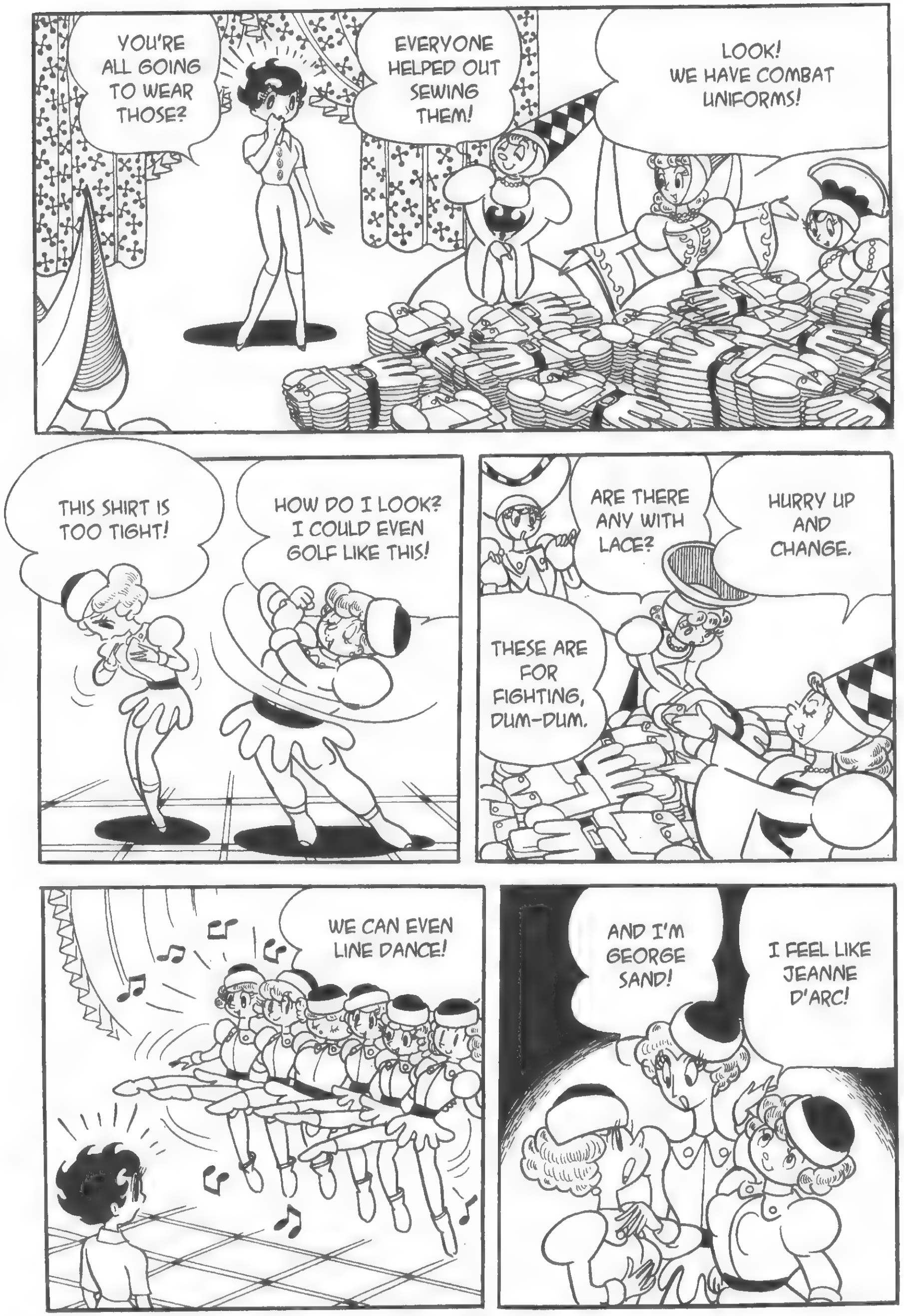
MEANWHILE, IN SILVERLAND, SAPPHIRE RESTED
HER WEARY MIND AND BODY IN A BED
IN THE WOMEN'S QUARTERS AFTER BEING TRAPPED
INSIDE BY DUKE DURALUMIN.

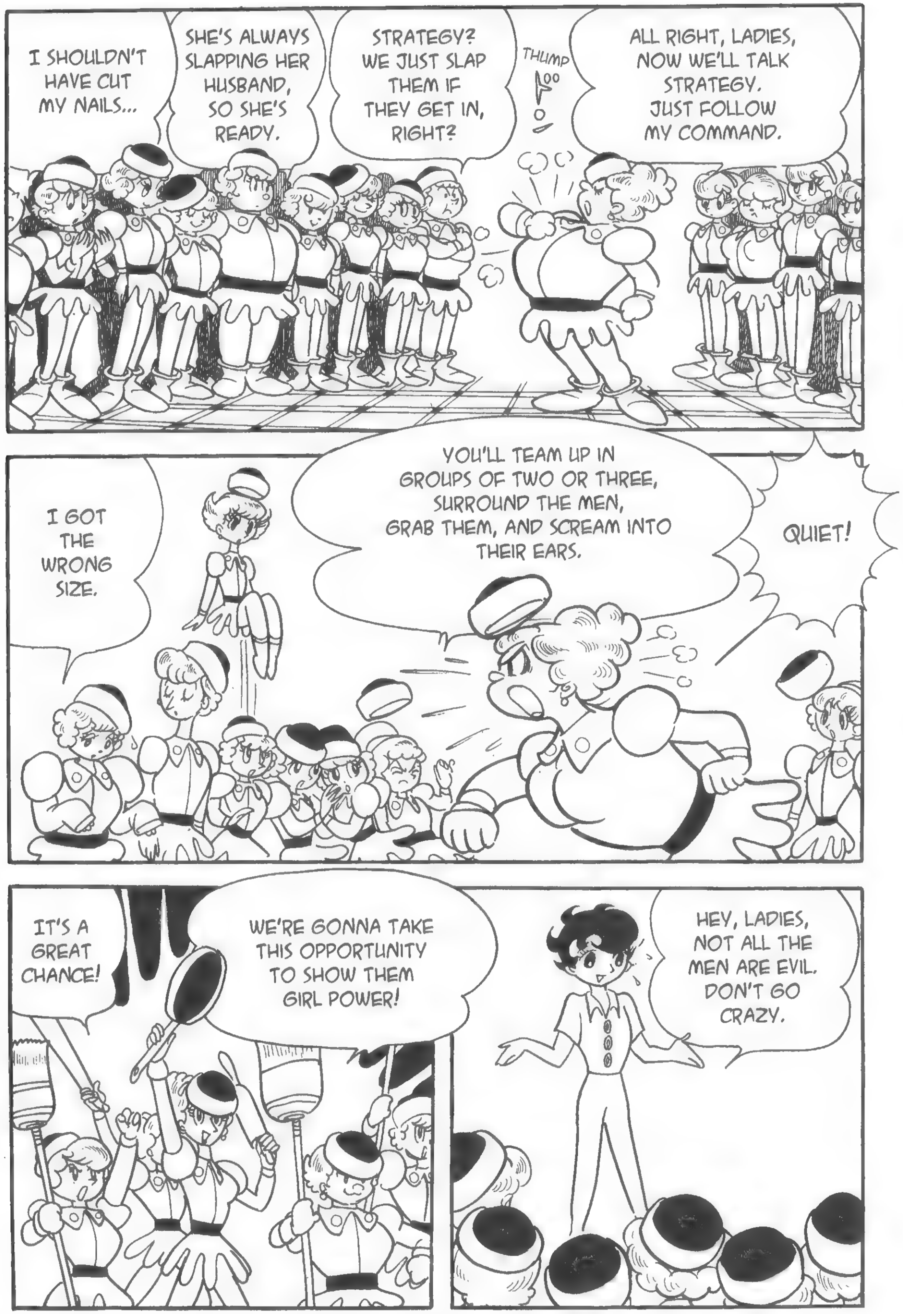


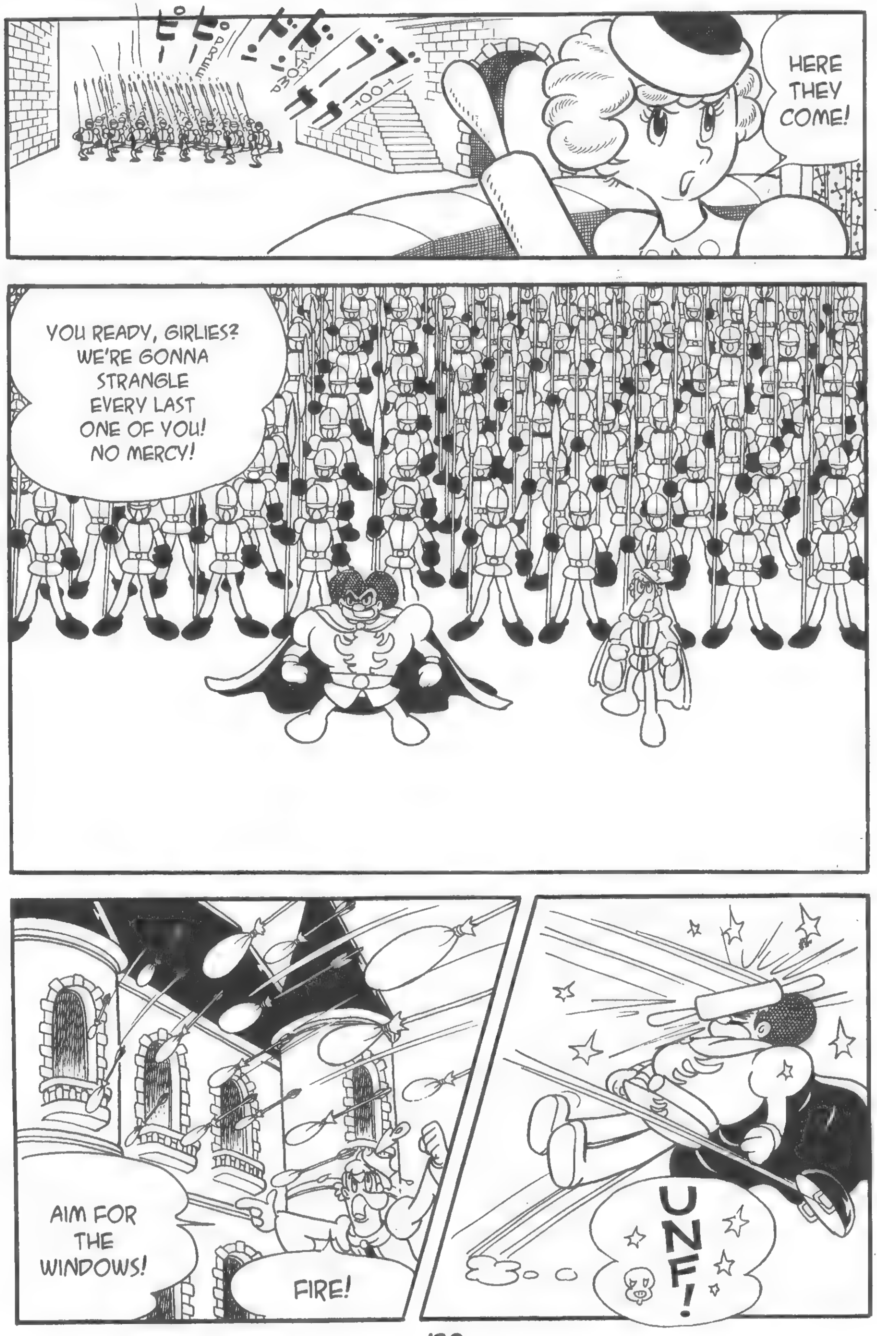

OOH....
ARE YOU AWAKE?
GASP
I SLEPT TOO MUCH.
IT'S TO BE EXPECTED. YOU'VE BEEN HAVING A ROUGH TIME.
I WAS JUST SO RELIEVED YOU SAVED ME.
I'M FEELING MUCH BETTER NOW.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP!
NO TROUBLE AT ALL, SAPPHIRE!

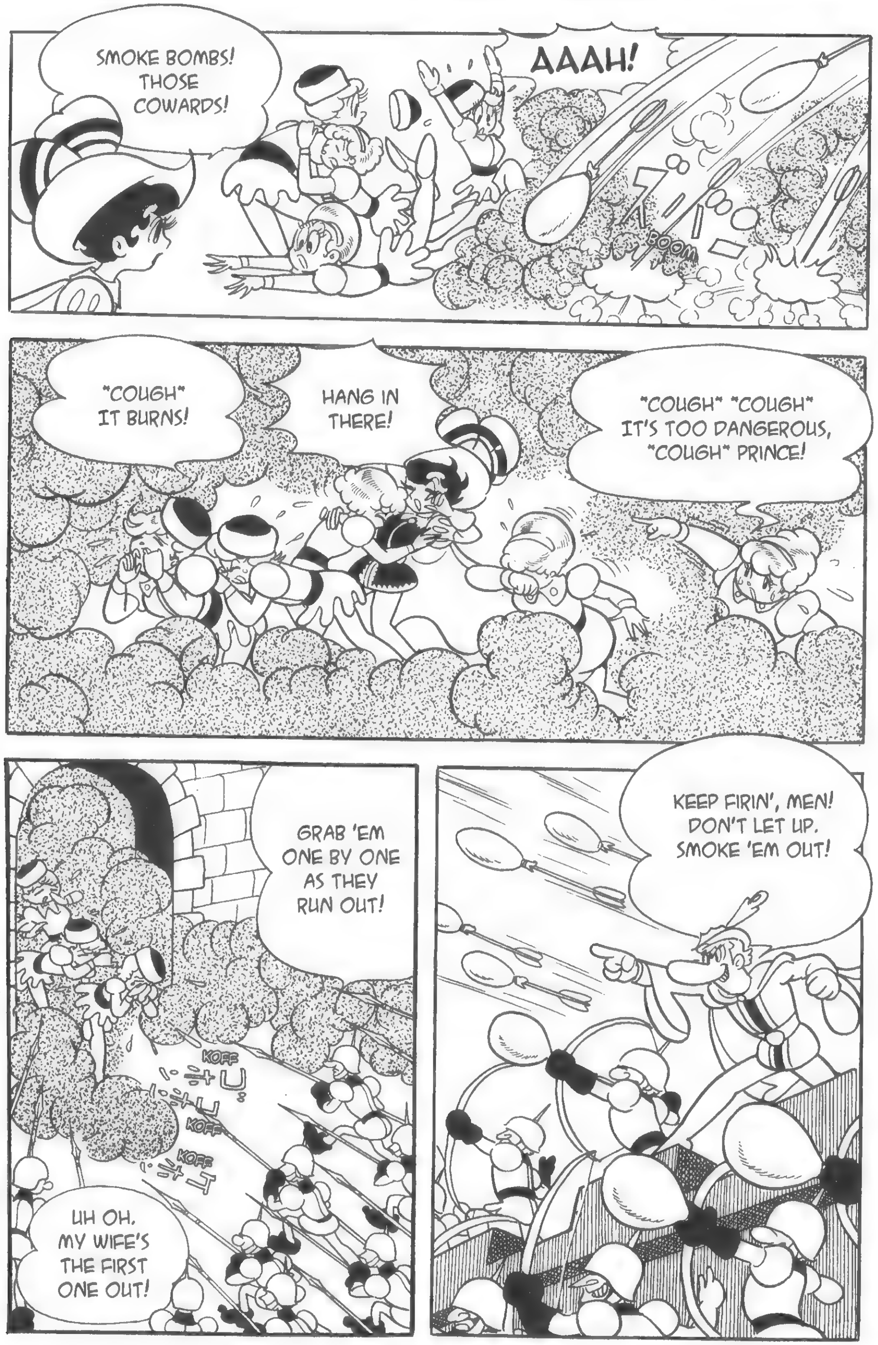

WE WILL FIGHT. WE'LL SHOW THESE MEN THAT THE WEAKER SEX IS FREE AND PROUD!
NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL THE COURT LADIES TO RISE UP AS ONE. WE'RE ALL SO MOVED BY YOUR BRAVERY.
IT'S ALL THE FAULT OF THAT STUPID LAW THAT FORBIDS WOMEN FROM ASCENDING THE THRONE! IT'S MISOGYNISTIC!
OH? YOU'LL FIGHT THE MEN?
LISTEN UP! ANYONE WHO DARES DISOBEY US WILL BE THROWN INTO PRISON, WOMAN OR NO!
WHAT'RE YOU WHINING ABOUT NOW, WENCHES?!

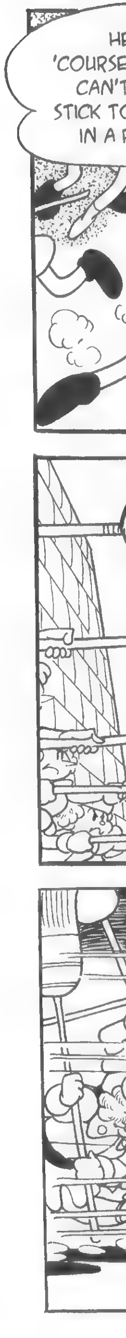

WHAT? WHEN?
DUKE DURALUMIN'S ALL RILED UP. HE'S GOING TO BREAK DOWN THE DOORS AND TIE EVERYONE UP!
WHAT'LL WE DO?
LET'S GIVE THAT NASTY DUKE HELL, LADIES! AN EYE FOR AN EYE, FANG FOR FANG!
HE'LL BREAK THROUGH IN A FEW HOURS.
YOU CAN'T VERY WELL FIGHT WEARING DRESSES.
WE WON'T LOSE, EVEN IF IT GETS ROUGH!
IT'S A BATTLE OF THE SEXES! WE MUST DEFEND THE HONOR OF WOMANKIND!

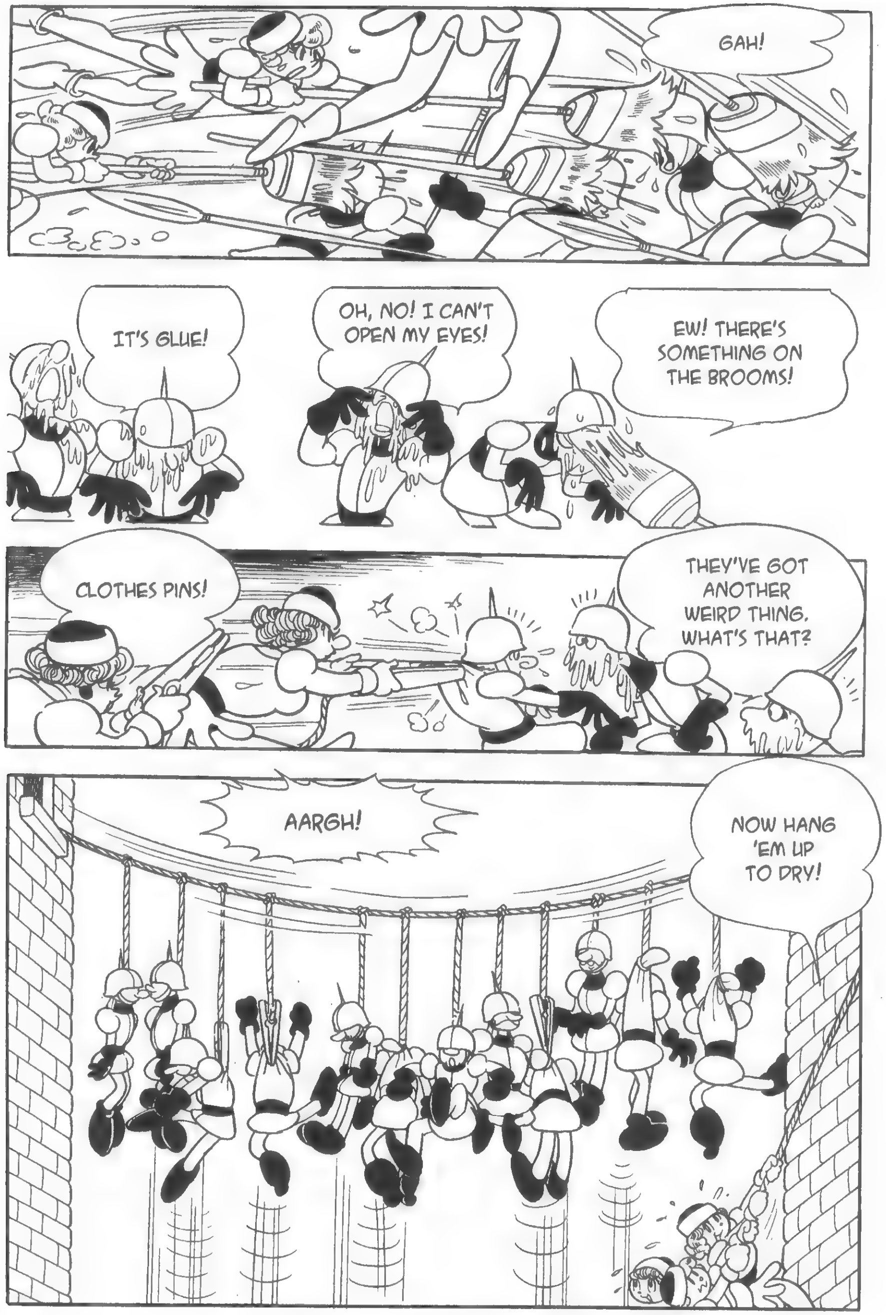

LOOK! WE HAVE COMBAT UNIFORMS!
EVERYONE HELPED OUT SEWING THEM!
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO WEAR THOSE?
HURRY UP AND CHANGE.
ARE THERE ANY WITH LACE?
THESE ARE FOR FIGHTING, DUM-DUM.
HOW DO I LOOK? I COULD EVEN GOLF LIKE THIS!
THIS SHIRT IS TOO TIGHT!
I FEEL LIKE JEANNE D'ARC!
AND I'M GEORGE SAND!
WE CAN EVEN LINE DANCE!

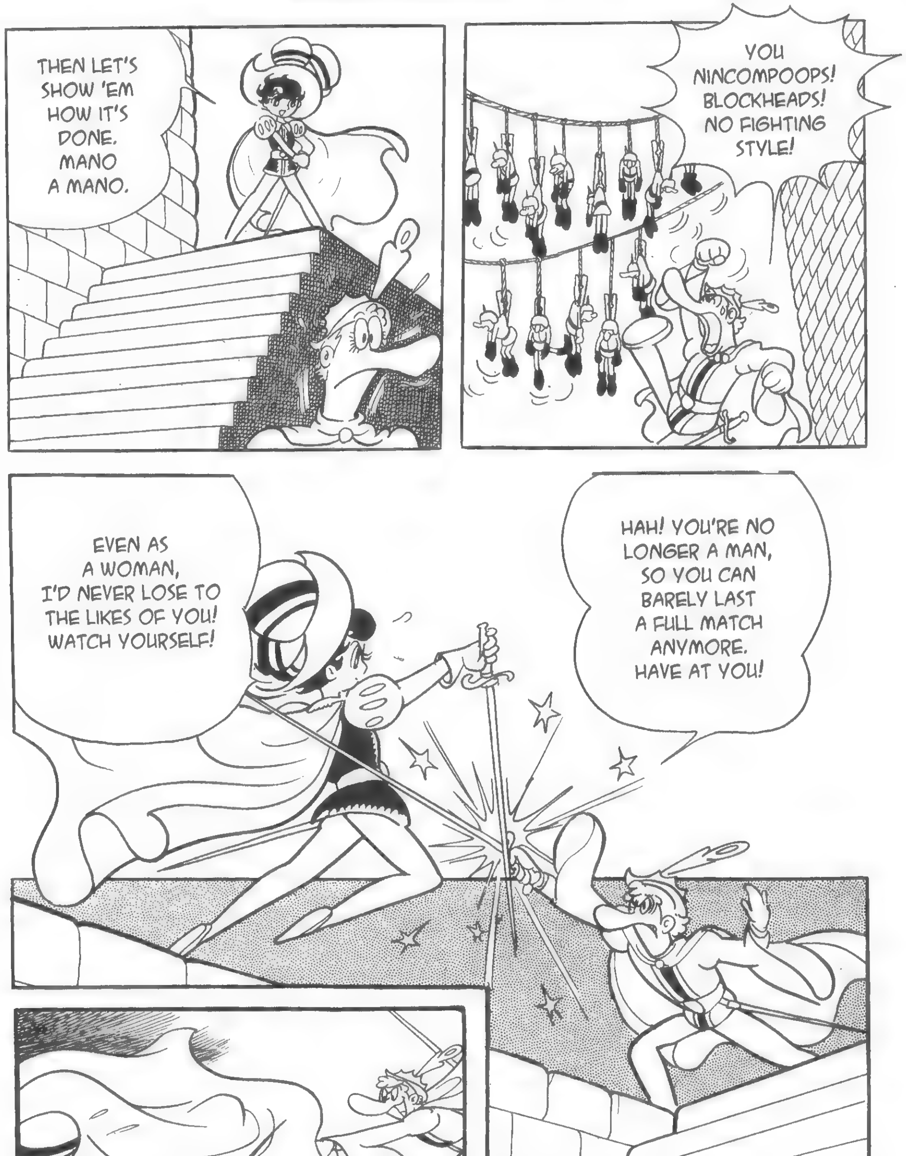

ALL RIGHT, LADIES, NOW WE'LL TALK STRATEGY. JUST FOLLOW MY COMMAND.
THUMP
STRATEGY? WE JUST SLAP THEM IF THEY GET IN, RIGHT?
SHE'S ALWAYS SLAPPING HER HUSBAND, SO SHE'S READY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE CUT MY NAILS...
QUIET!
YOU'LL TEAM UP IN GROUPS OF TWO OR THREE, SURROUND THE MEN, GRAB THEM, AND SCREAM INTO THEIR EARS.
I GOT THE WRONG SIZE.
HEY, LADIES, NOT ALL THE MEN ARE EVIL. DON'T GO CRAZY.
WE'RE GONNA TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW THEM GIRL POWER!
IT'S A GREAT CHANCE!

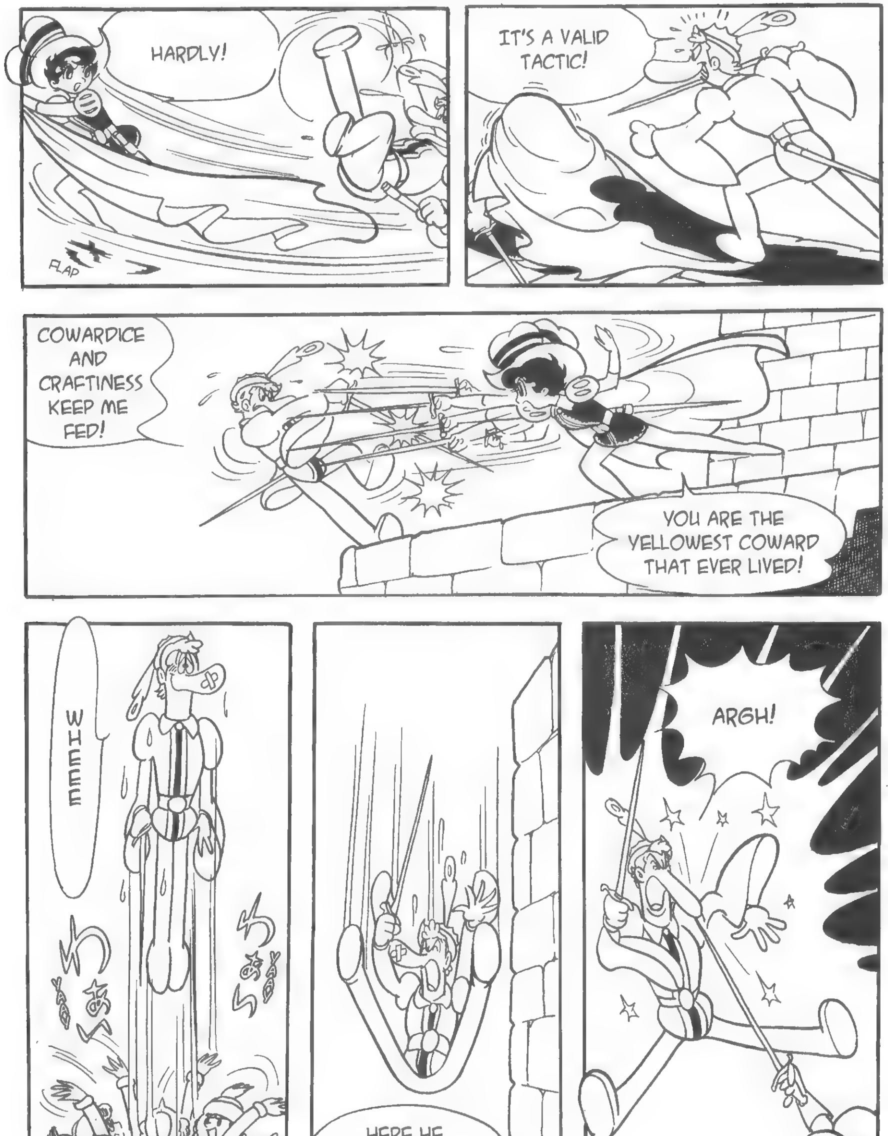

HERE THEY COME!
PREEE
DOOM
TOOT
YOU READY, GIRLIES? WE'RE GONNA STRANGLE EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU! NO MERCY!
UNF!
AIM FOR THE WINDOWS!
FIRE!

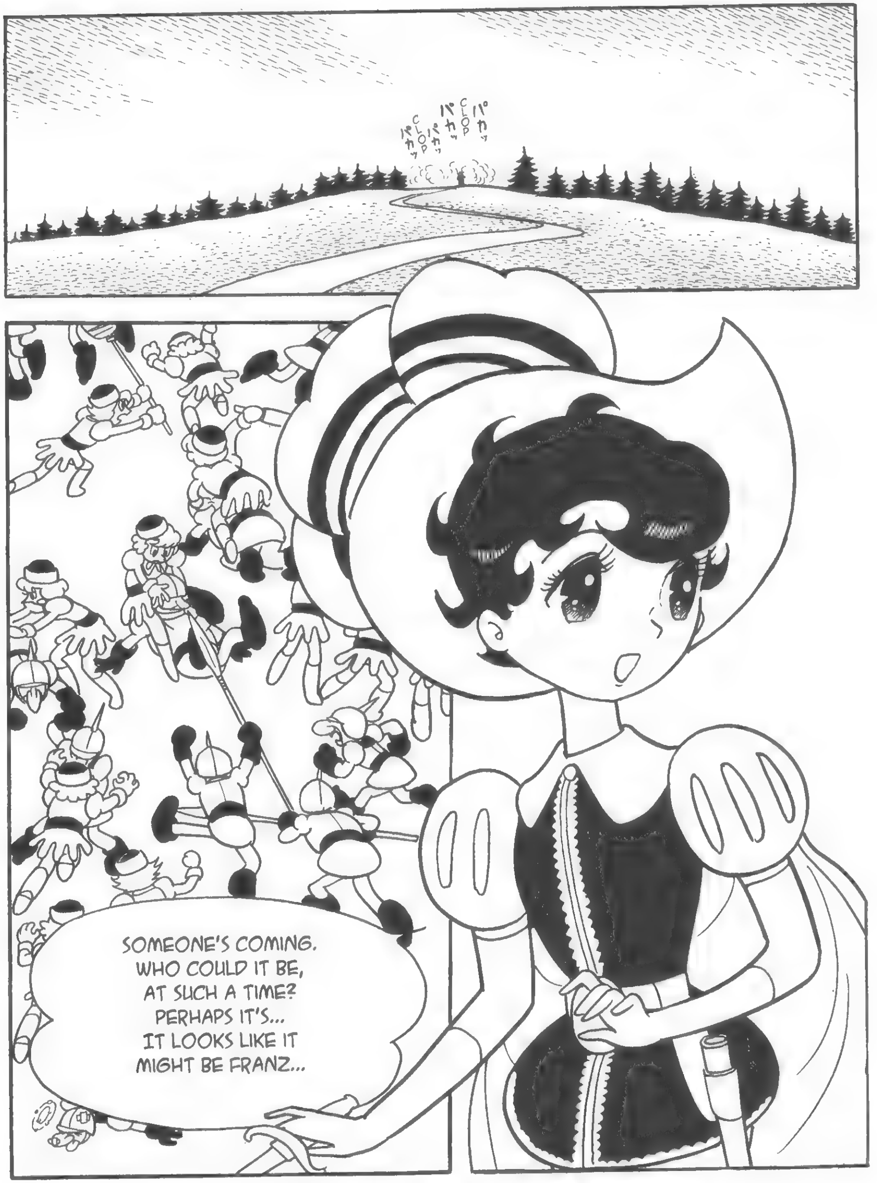

AAAH!
SMOKE BOMBS! THOSE COWARDS!
BOOM
"COUGH" "COUGH" IT'S TOO DANGEROUS, "COUGH" PRINCE!
HANG IN THERE!
"COUGH" IT BURNS!
KEEP FIRIN', MEN! DON'T LET UP. SMOKE 'EM OUT!
GRAB 'EM ONE BY ONE AS THEY RUN OUT!
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
UH OH. MY WIFE'S THE FIRST ONE OUT!

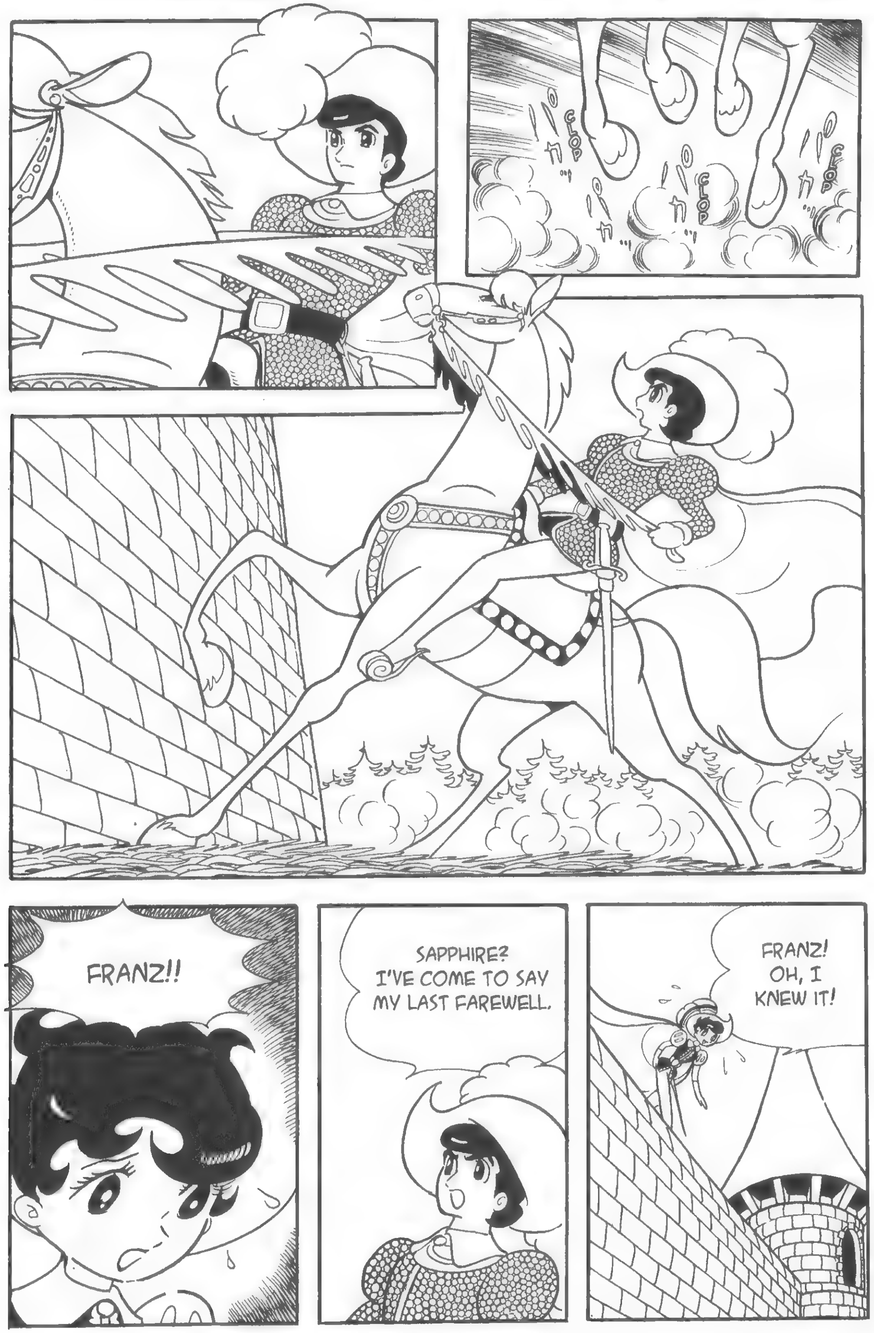

STAY IN PAIRS OR TRIOS! "COUGH" DON'T GET SPLIT UP!
HEH! 'COURSE WOMEN CAN'T EVEN STICK TOGETHER IN A FIGHT!
GRAB THEM, NOW!
HEH HEH! YOU'RE A CUTIE! EVEN CUTER WHEN YOU STRUGGLE!
GROOM BROOMS! READY!
WHOA, THAT'S TERRIFYING!
WATCH THE THIRD FROM THE RIGHT. THAT'S MY BALL AND CHAIN.

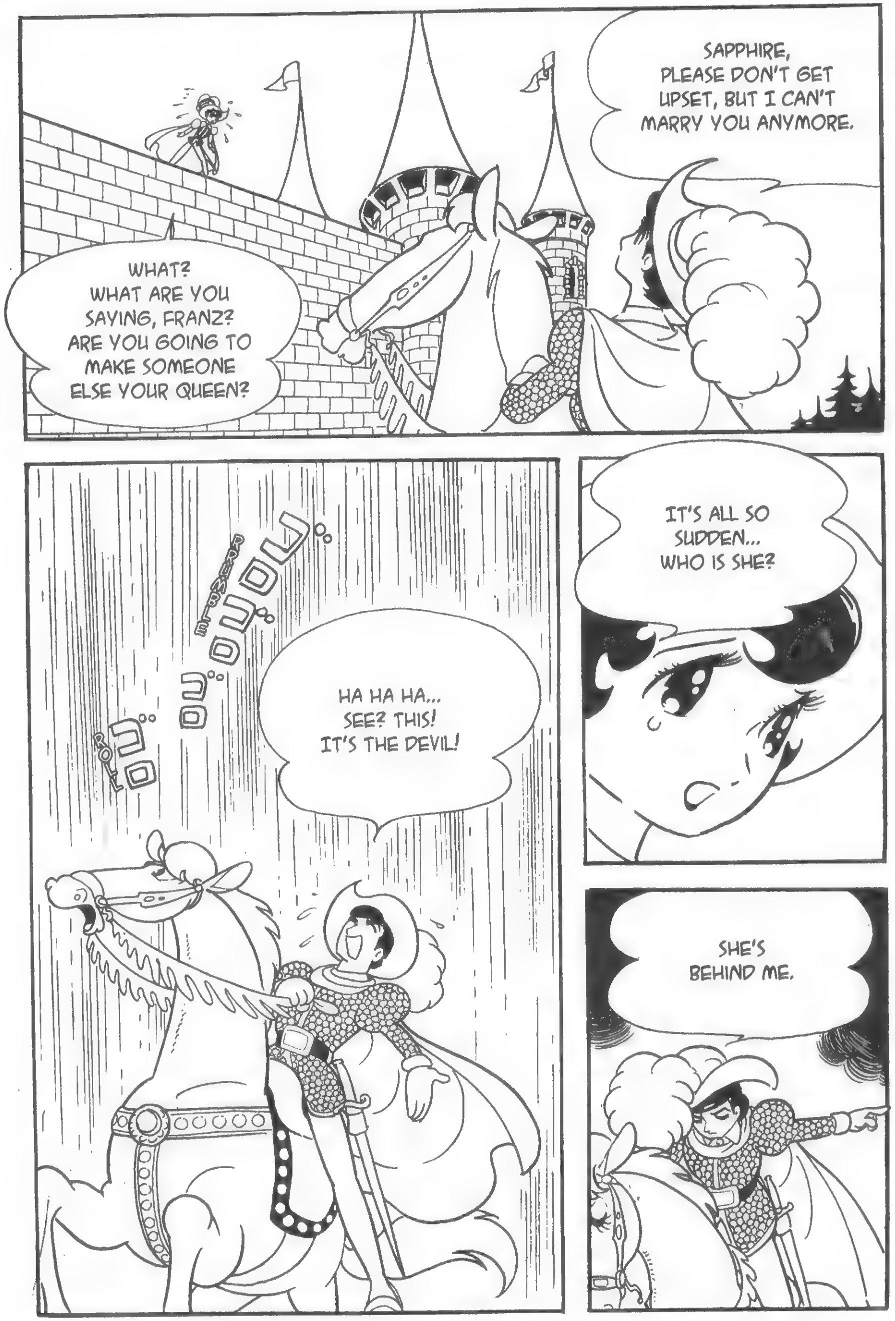

GAH!
EW! THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE BROOMS!
OH, NO! I CAN'T OPEN MY EYES!
IT'S GLUE!
THEY'VE GOT ANOTHER WEIRD THING. WHAT'S THAT?
CLOTHES PINS!
NOW HANG 'EM UP TO DRY!
AARGH!

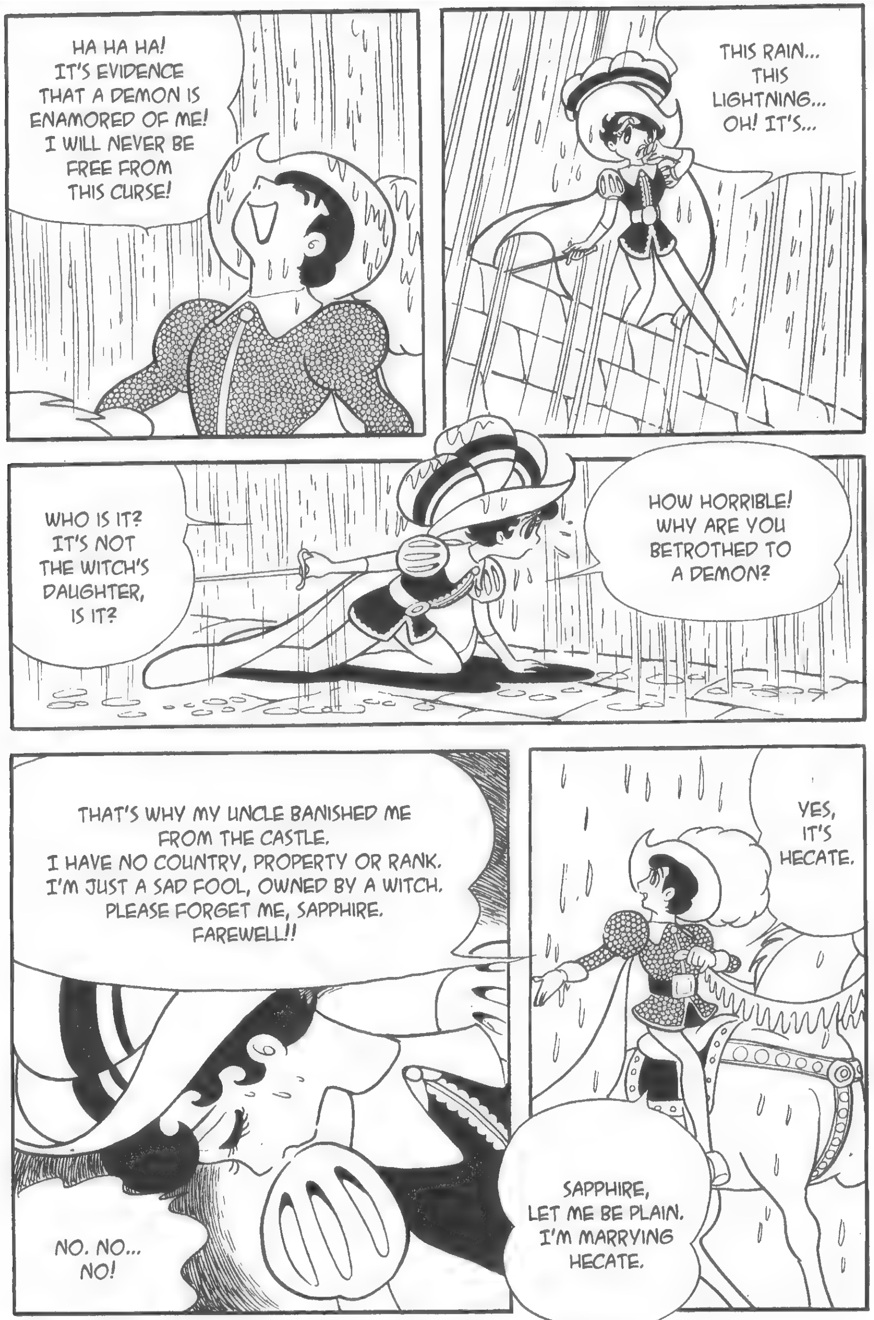

YOU NINCOMPOOPS! BLOCKHEADS! NO FIGHTING STYLE!
THEN LET'S SHOW 'EM HOW IT'S DONE. MANO A MANO.
HAH! YOU'RE NO LONGER A MAN, SO YOU CAN BARELY LAST A FULL MATCH ANYMORE. HAVE AT YOU!
EVEN AS A WOMAN, I'D NEVER LOSE TO THE LIKES OF YOU! WATCH YOURSELF!
YOU AND YOUR DIRTY TRICKS!

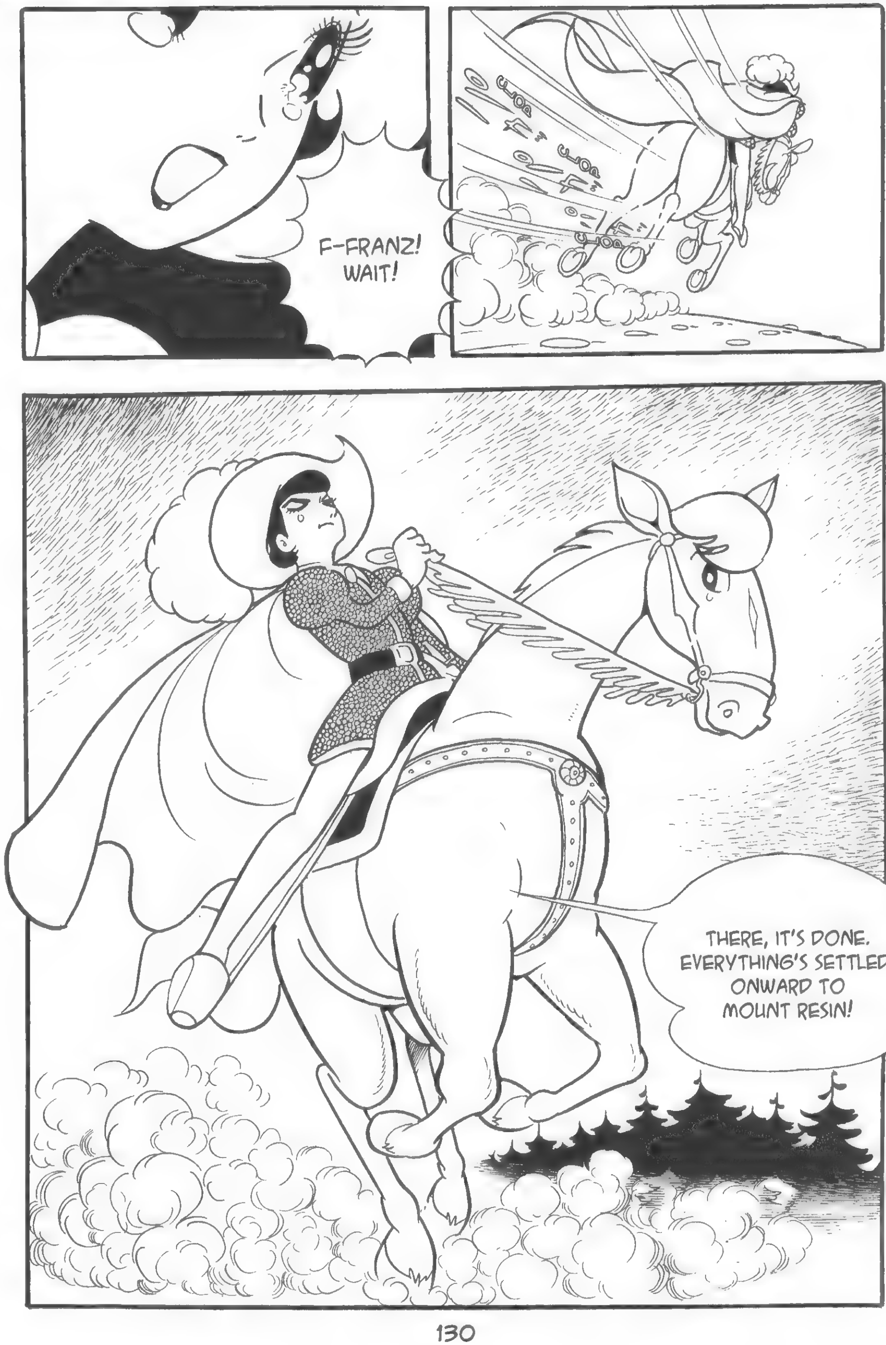

IT'S A VALID TACTIC!
HARDLY!
FLAP
COWARDICE AND CRAFTINESS KEEP ME FED!
YOU ARE THE YELLOWEST COWARD THAT EVER LIVED!
ARGH!
HERE HE COMES. LET'S TOSS HIM!
WHEEE

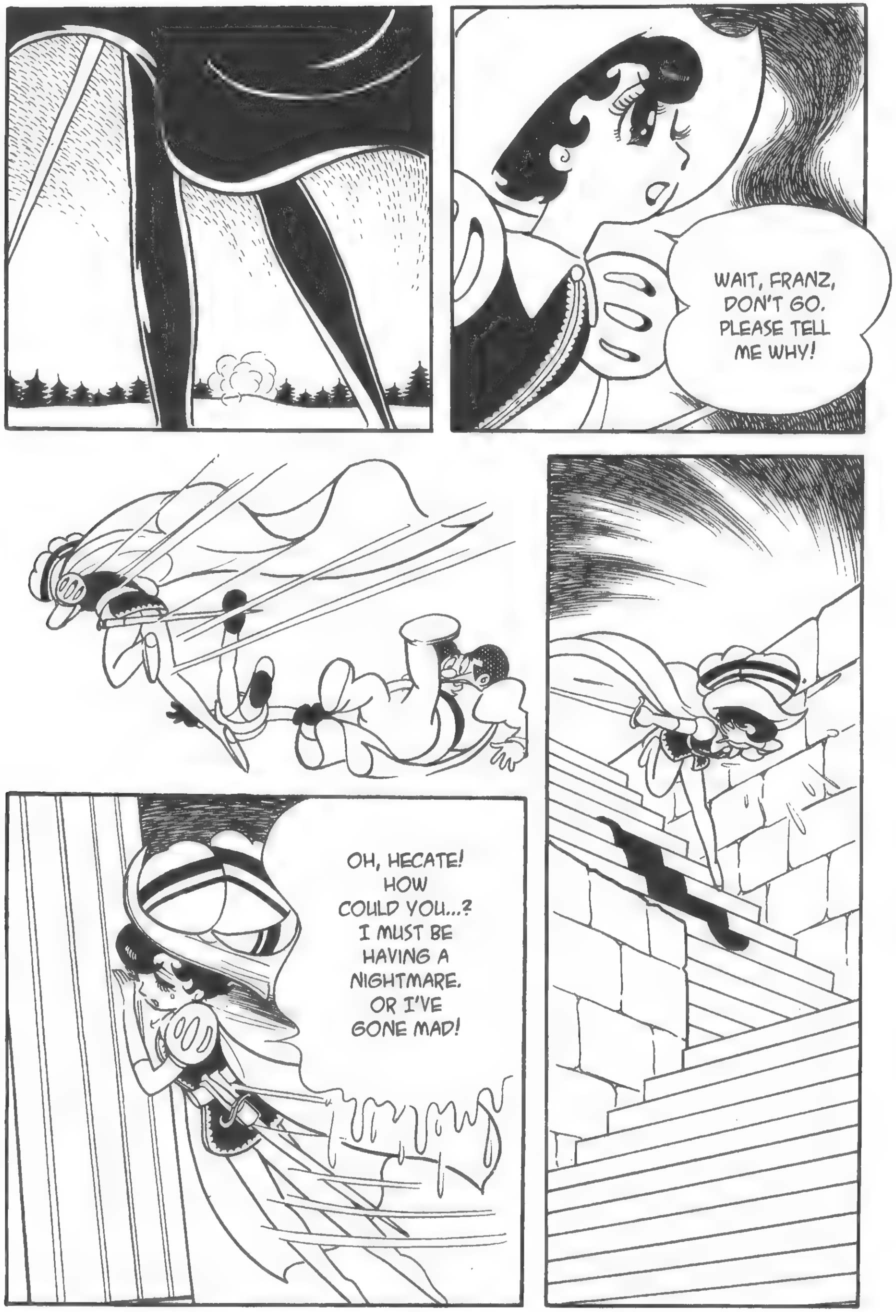

パカッ
CLOP
パカッ
パカッ
CLOP
パカッ
SOMEONE'S COMING. WHO COULD IT BE, AT SUCH A TIME? PERHAPS IT'S... IT LOOKS LIKE IT MIGHT BE FRANZ...

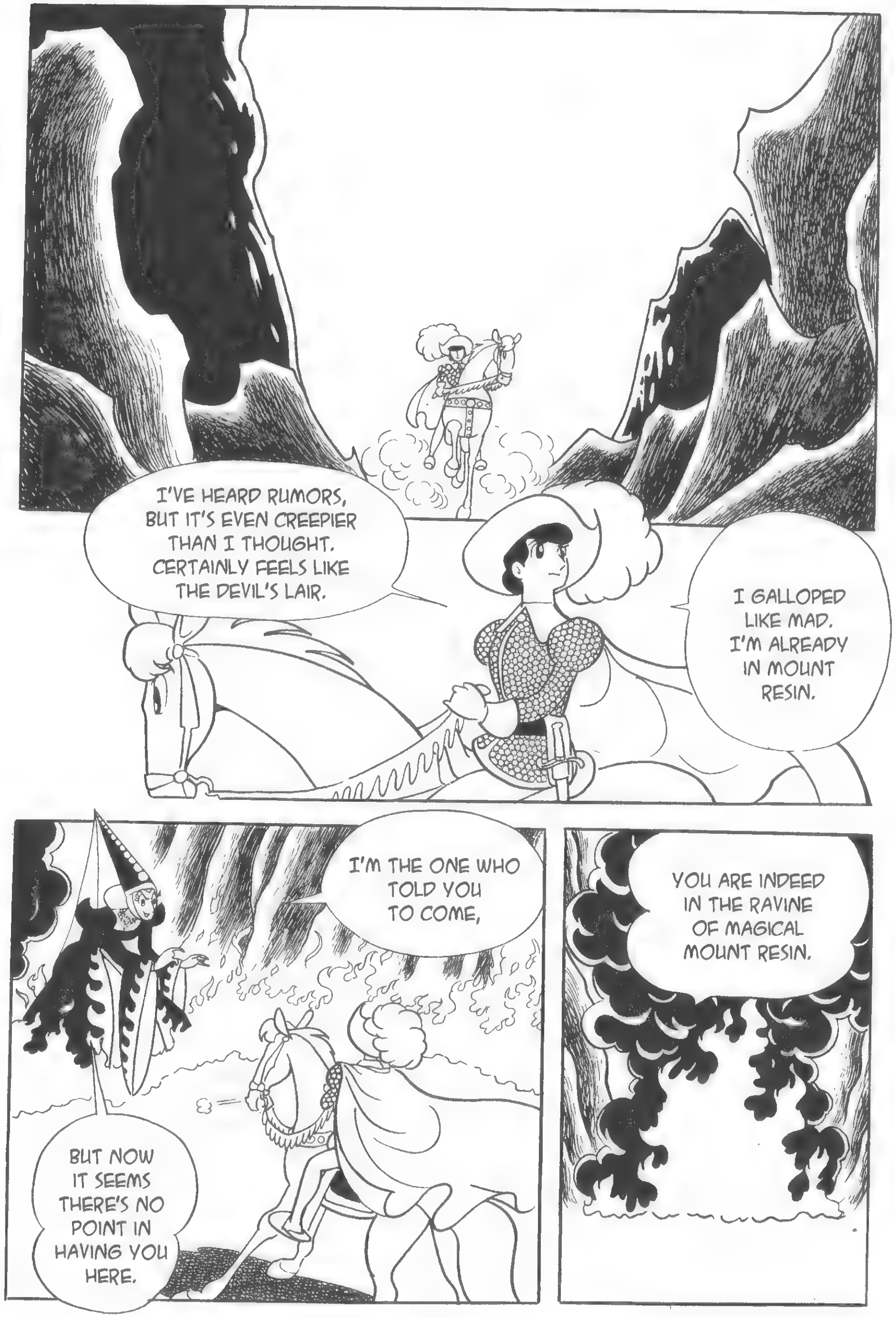

パカッ
CLOP
パカッ
CLOP
パカッ
パカッ
CLOP
FRANZ! OH, I KNEW IT!
SAPPHIRE? I'VE COME TO SAY MY LAST FAREWELL.
FRANZ!!

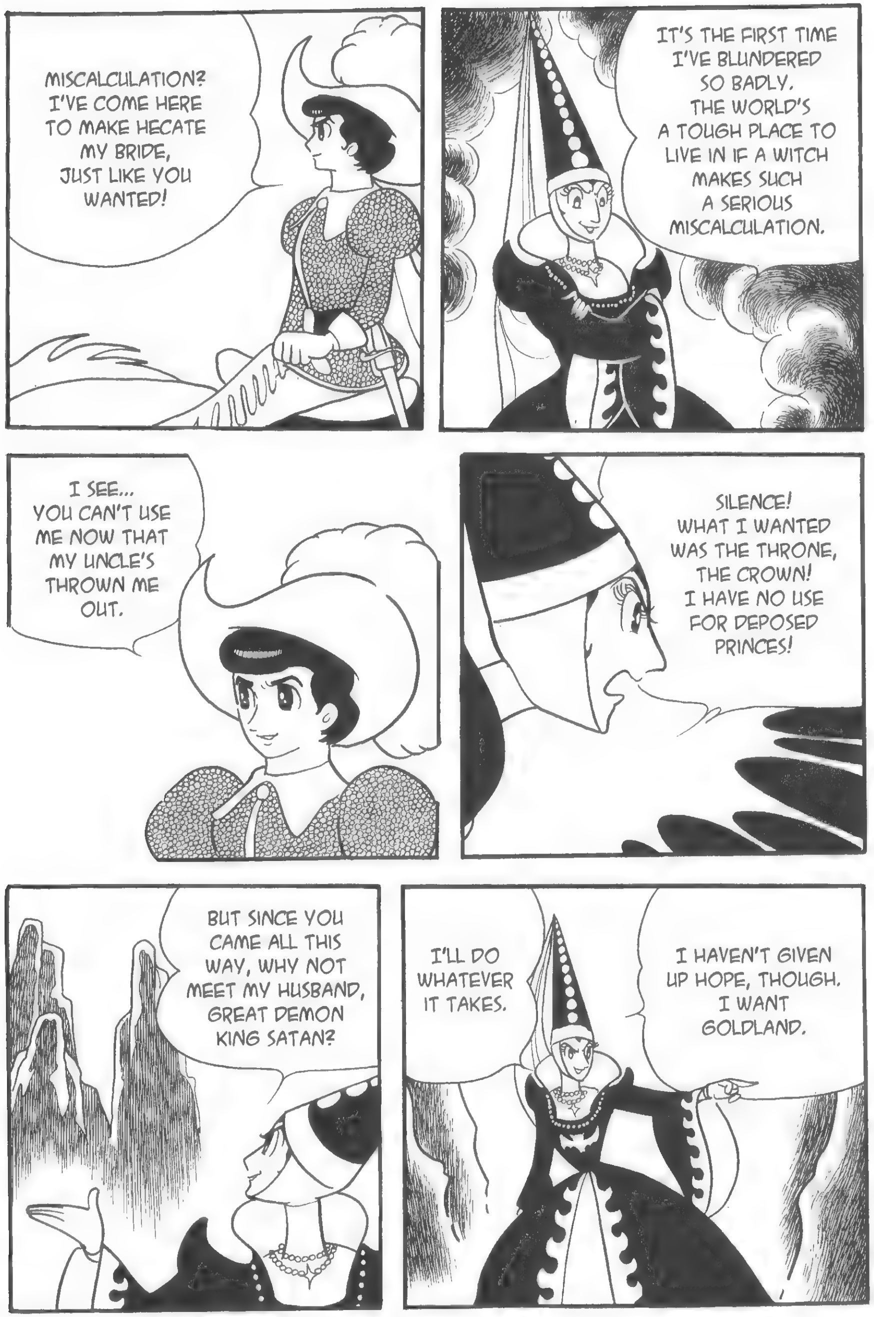

SAPPHIRE, PLEASE DON'T GET UPSET, BUT I CAN'T MARRY YOU ANYMORE.
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, FRANZ? ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE SOMEONE ELSE YOUR QUEEN?
IT'S ALL SO SUDDEN... WHO IS SHE?
SHE'S BEHIND ME.
RUMBLE
ROLL
HA HA HA... SEE? THIS! IT'S THE DEVIL!

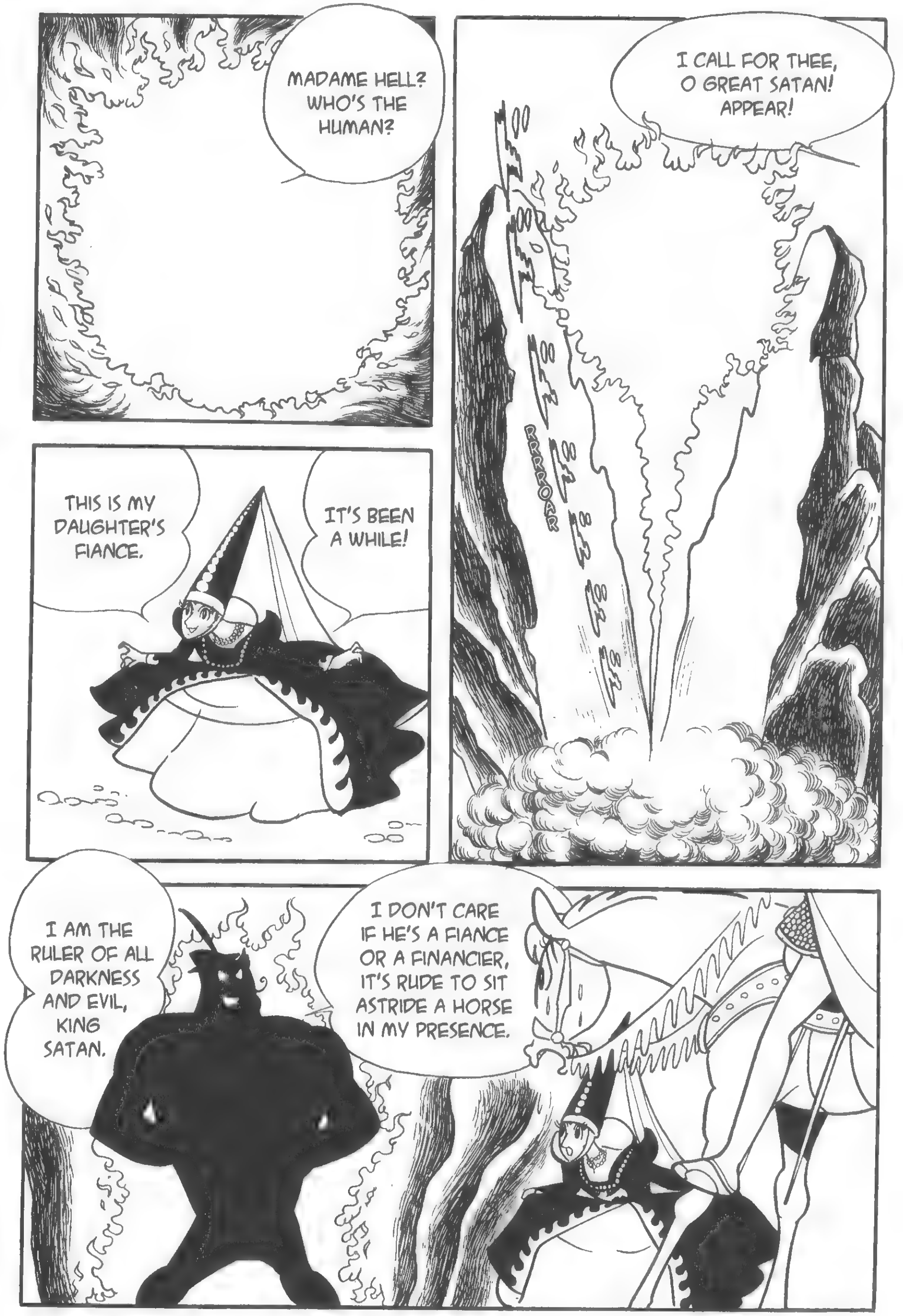

THIS RAIN... THIS LIGHTNING... OH! IT'S...
HA HA HA! IT'S EVIDENCE THAT A DEMON IS ENAMORED OF ME! I WILL NEVER BE FREE FROM THIS CURSE!
HOW HORRIBLE! WHY ARE YOU BETROTHED TO A DEMON?
WHO IS IT? IT'S NOT THE WITCH'S DAUGHTER, IS IT?
YES, IT'S HECATE.
SAPPHIRE, LET ME BE PLAIN. I'M MARRYING HECATE.
THAT'S WHY MY UNCLE BANISHED ME FROM THE CASTLE. I HAVE NO COUNTRY, PROPERTY OR RANK. I'M JUST A SAD FOOL, OWNED BY A WITCH. PLEASE FORGET ME, SAPPHIRE. FAREWELL!!
NO. NO... NO!

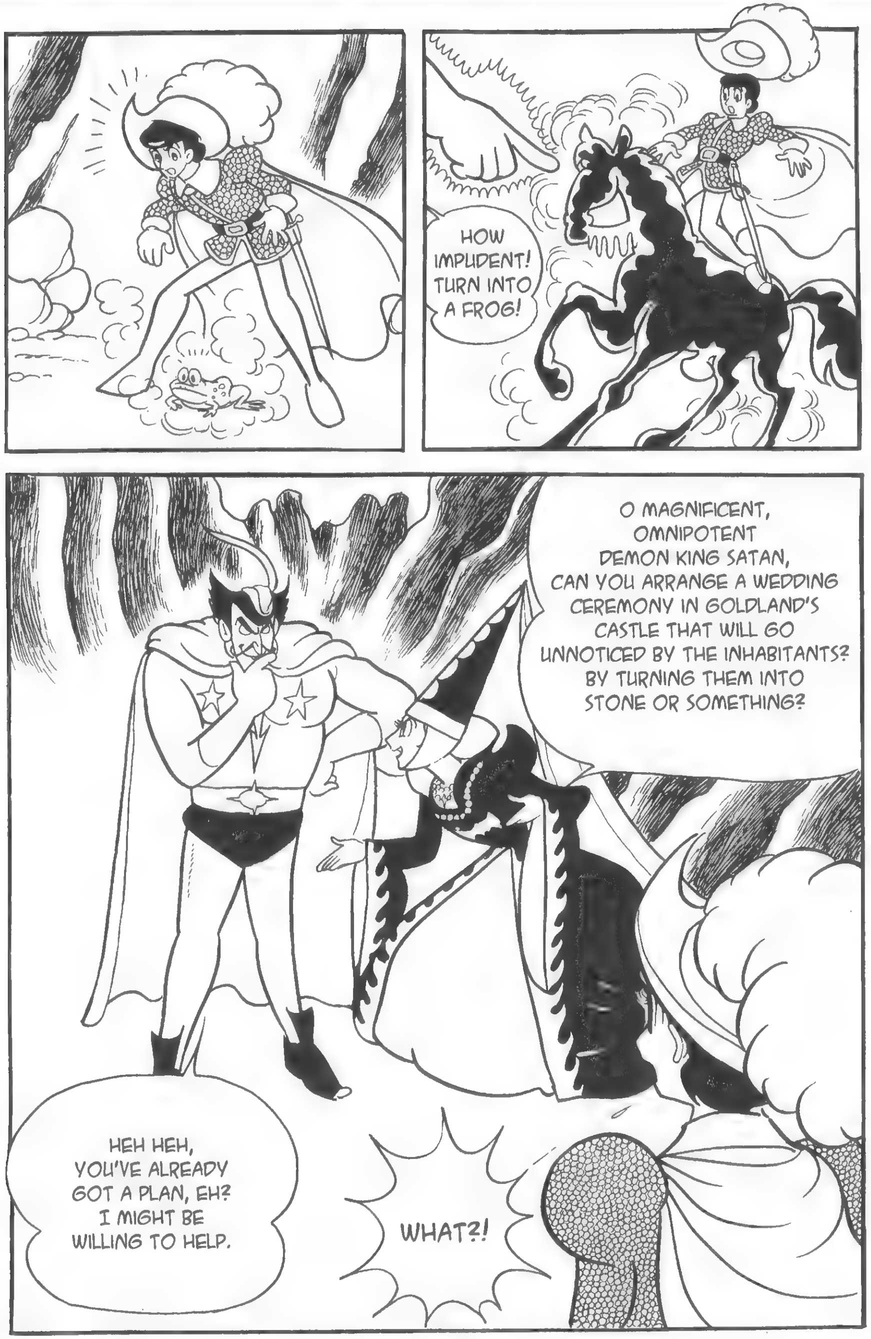

F-FRANZ! WAIT!
THERE, IT'S DONE. EVERYTHING'S SETTLED. ONWARD TO MOUNT RESIN!

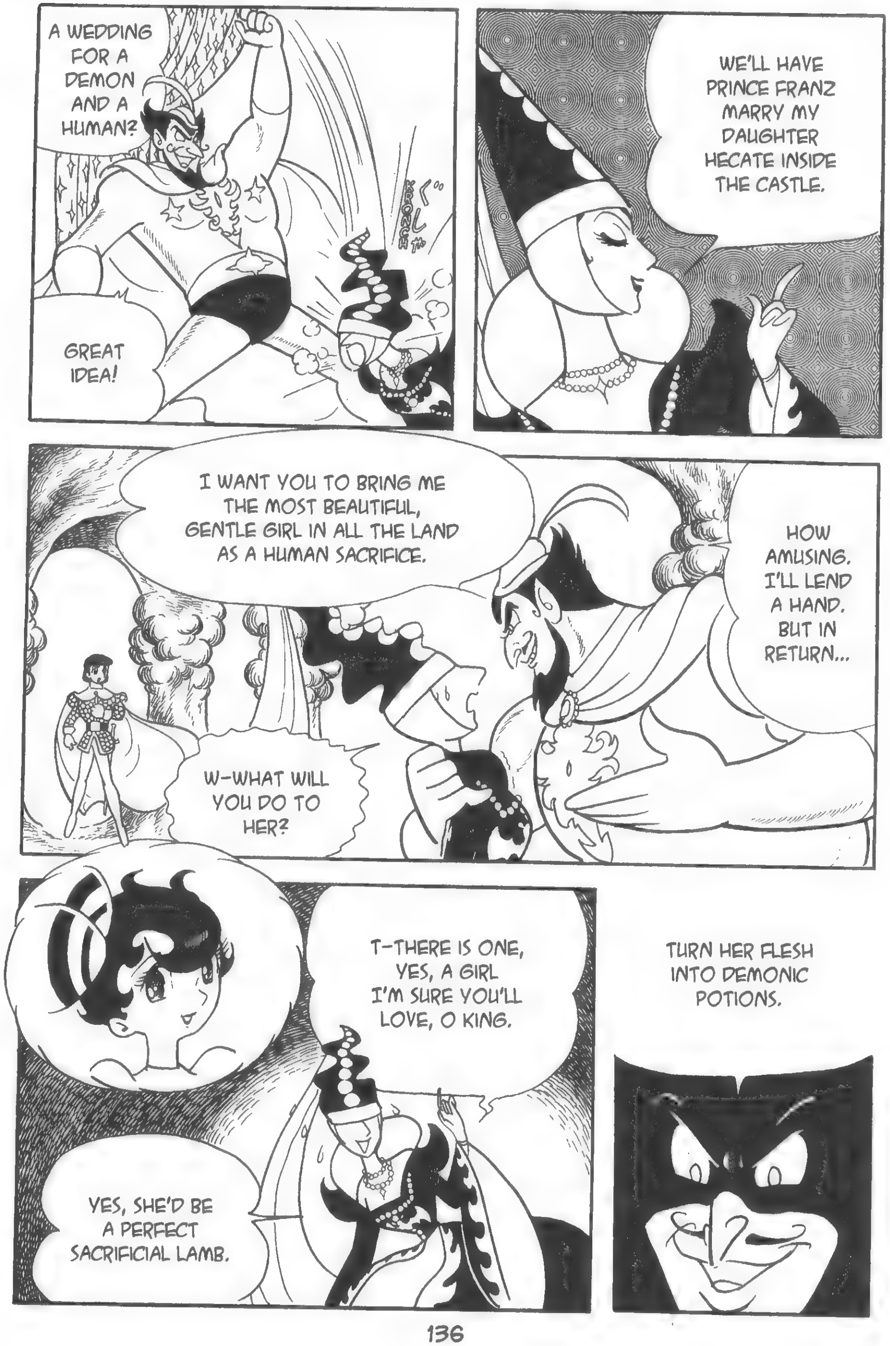

WAIT, FRANZ, DON'T GO. PLEASE TELL ME WHY!
OH, HECATE! HOW COULD YOU...? I MUST BE HAVING A NIGHTMARE. OR I'VE GONE MAD!

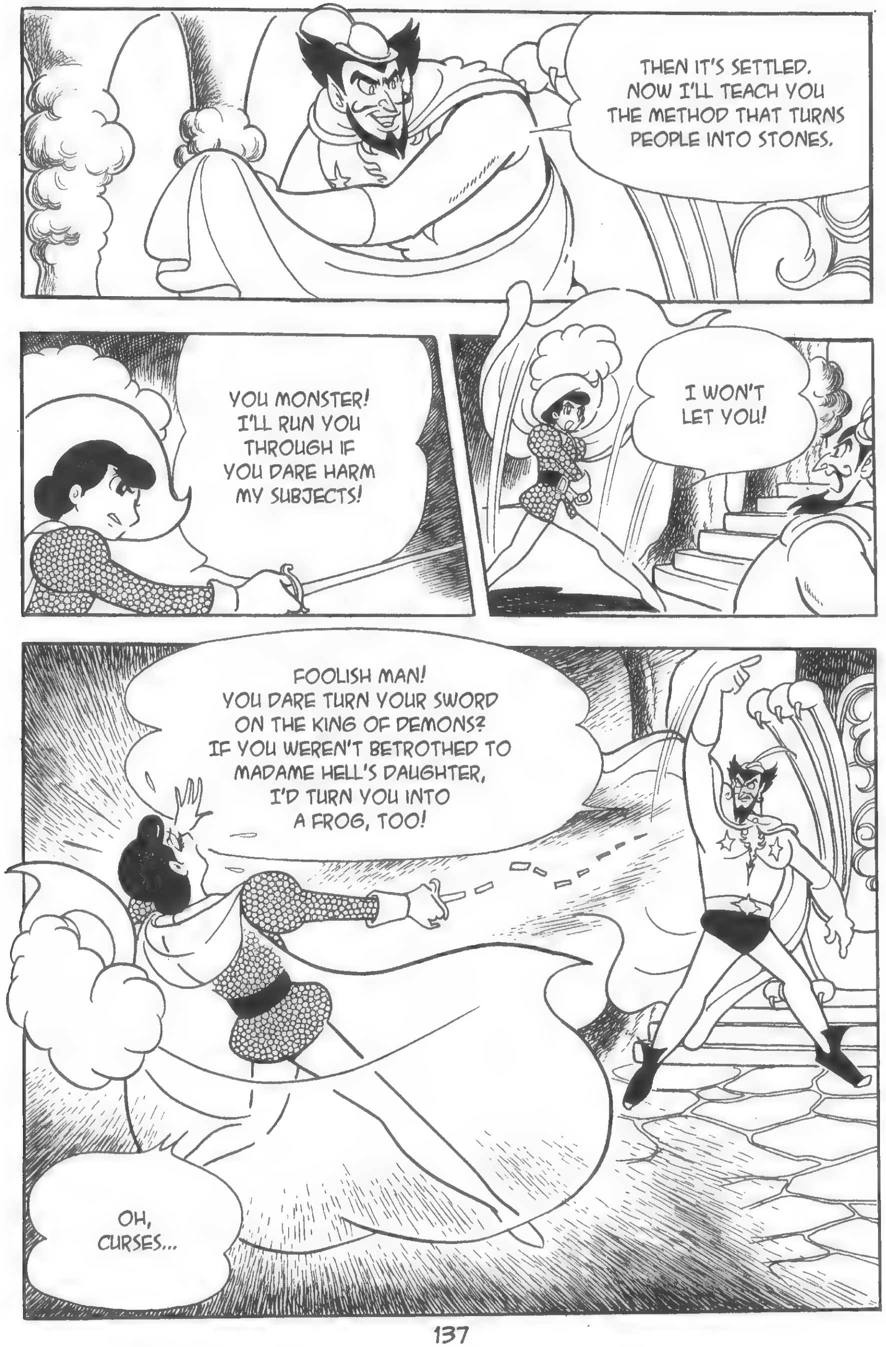

I GALLOPED LIKE MAD. I'M ALREADY IN MOUNT RESIN.
I'VE HEARD RUMORS, BUT IT'S EVEN CREEPIER THAN I THOUGHT. CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE THE DEVIL'S LAIR.
YOU ARE INDEED IN THE RAVINE OF MAGICAL MOUNT RESIN.
I'M THE ONE WHO TOLD YOU TO COME,
BUT NOW IT SEEMS THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING YOU HERE.

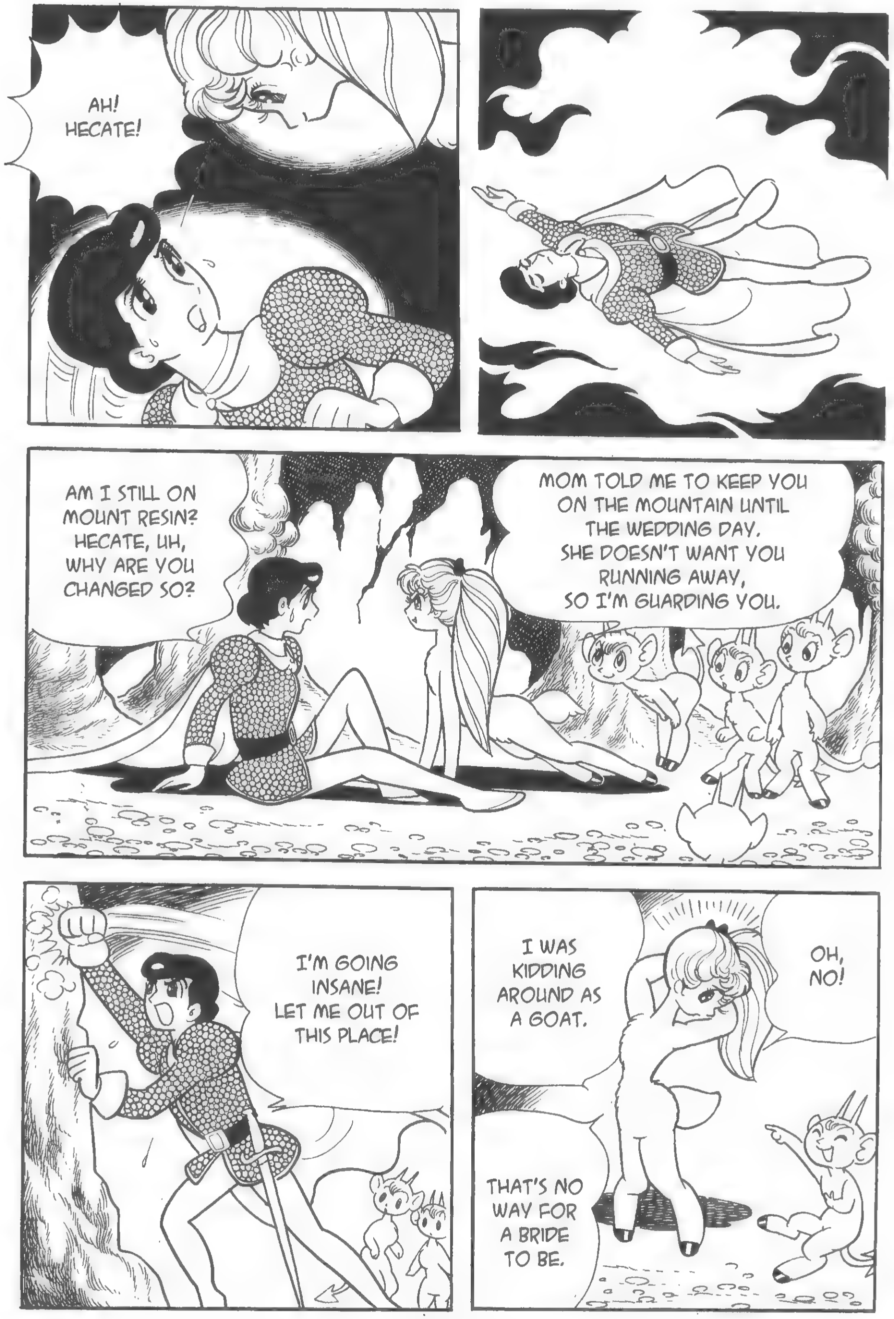

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BLUNDERED SO BADLY. THE WORLD'S A TOUGH PLACE TO LIVE IN IF A WITCH MAKES SUCH A SERIOUS MISCALCULATION.
MISCALCULATION? I'VE COME HERE TO MAKE HECATE MY BRIDE, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED!
SILENCE! WHAT I WANTED WAS THE THRONE, THE CROWN! I HAVE NO USE FOR DEPOSED PRINCES!
I SEE... YOU CAN'T USE ME NOW THAT MY UNCLE'S THROWN ME OUT.
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP HOPE, THOUGH. I WANT GOLDLAND.
I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
BUT SINCE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, WHY NOT MEET MY HUSBAND, GREAT DEMON KING SATAN?

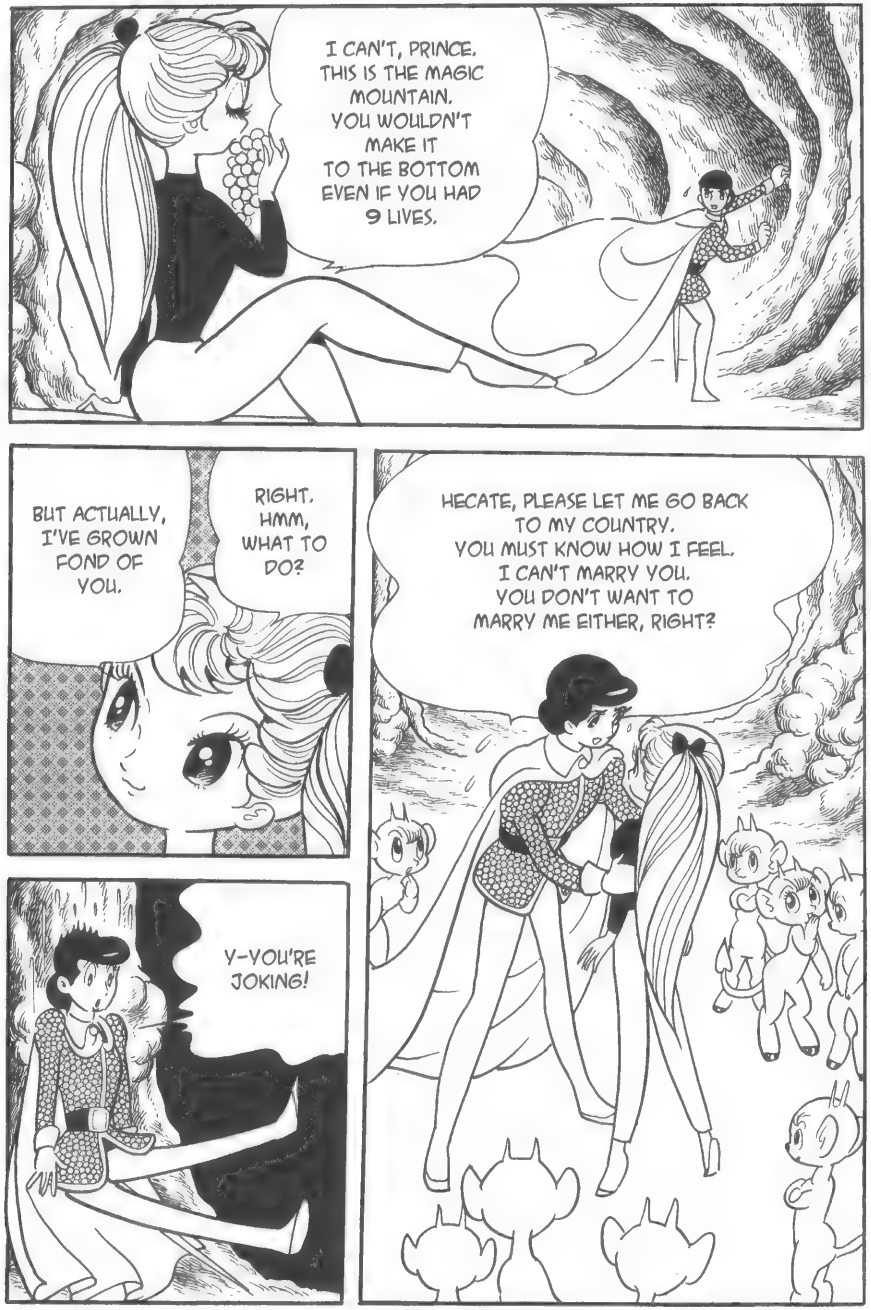

I CALL FOR THEE, O GREAT SATAN! APPEAR!
RRRROAR
MADAME HELL? WHO'S THE HUMAN?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER'S FIANCE.
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S A FIANCE OR A FINANCIER, IT'S RUDE TO SIT ASTRIDE A HORSE IN MY PRESENCE.
I AM THE RULER OF ALL DARKNESS AND EVIL, KING SATAN.

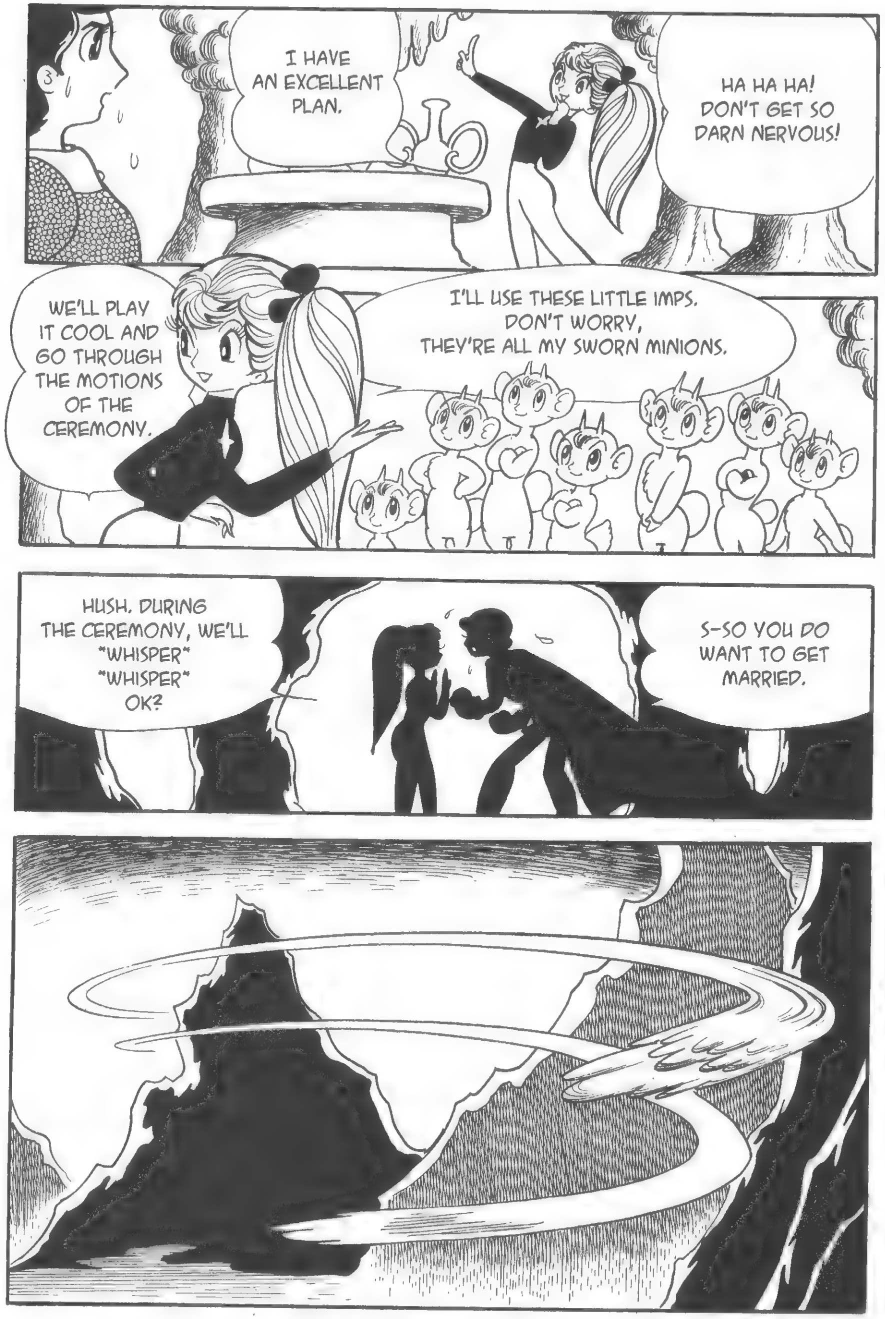

HOW IMPUDENT! TURN INTO A FROG!
O MAGNIFICENT, OMNIPOTENT DEMON KING SATAN, CAN YOU ARRANGE A WEDDING CEREMONY IN GOLDLAND'S CASTLE THAT WILL GO UNNOTICED BY THE INHABITANTS? BY TURNING THEM INTO STONE OR SOMETHING?
WHAT?!
HEH HEH, YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A PLAN, EH? I MIGHT BE WILLING TO HELP.

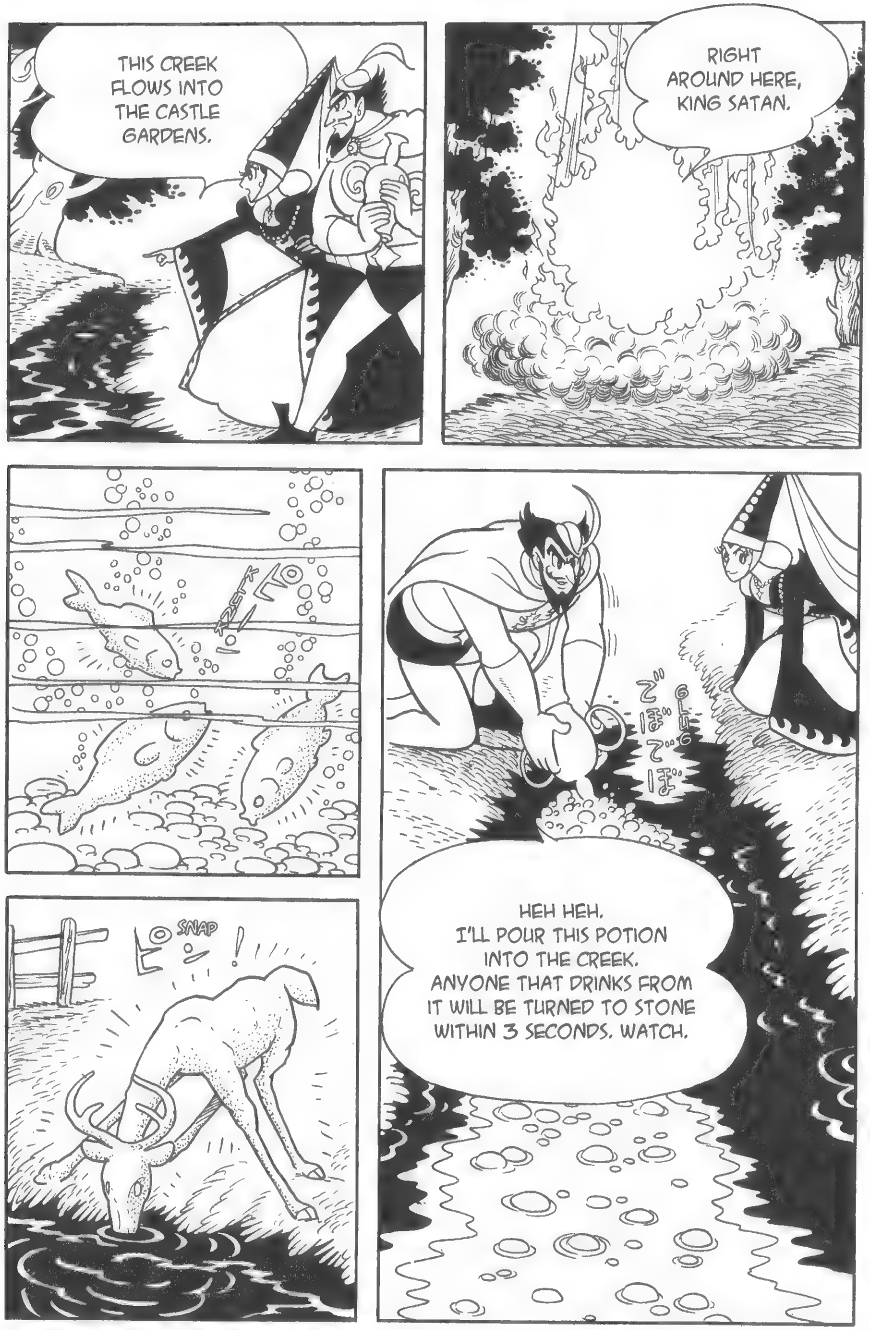

WE'LL HAVE PRINCE FRANZ MARRY MY DAUGHTER HECATE INSIDE THE CASTLE.
A WEDDING FOR A DEMON AND A HUMAN?
ぐしゃ
KRONCH
GREAT IDEA!
HOW AMUSING. I'LL LEND A HAND. BUT IN RETURN...
I WANT YOU TO BRING ME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE GIRL IN ALL THE LAND AS A HUMAN SACRIFICE.
W-WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HER?
TURN HER FLESH INTO DEMONIC POTIONS.
T-THERE IS ONE, YES, A GIRL I'M SURE YOU'LL LOVE, O KING.
YES, SHE'D BE A PERFECT SACRIFICIAL LAMB.

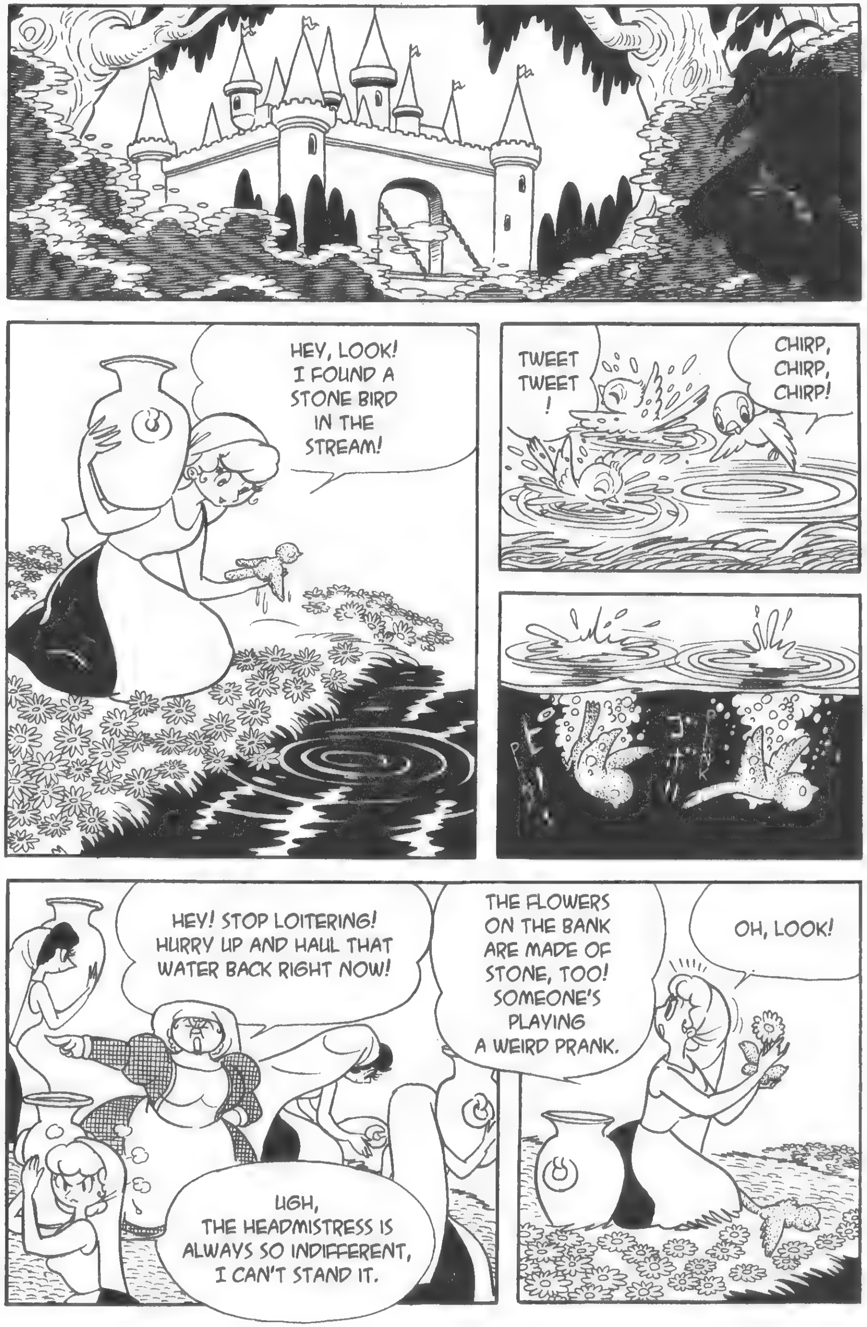

THEN IT'S SETTLED. NOW I'LL TEACH YOU THE METHOD THAT TURNS PEOPLE INTO STONES.
I WON'T LET YOU!
YOU MONSTER! I'LL RUN YOU THROUGH IF YOU DARE HARM MY SUBJECTS!
FOOLISH MAN! YOU DARE TURN YOUR SWORD ON THE KING OF DEMONS? IF YOU WEREN'T BETROTHED TO MADAME HELL'S DAUGHTER, I'D TURN YOU INTO A FROG, TOO!
OH, CURSES...

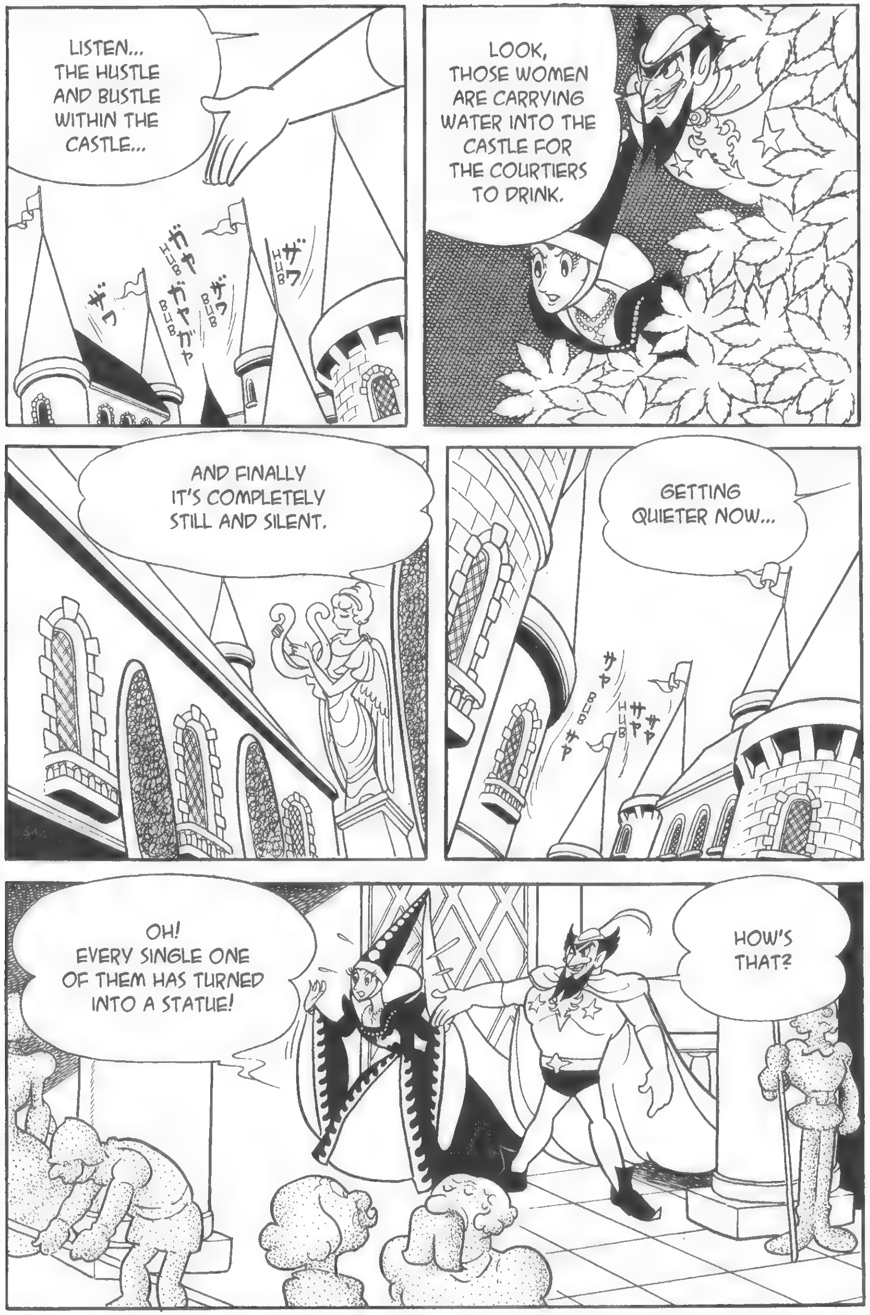

AH!
HECATE!
AM I STILL ON MOUNT RESIN? HECATE, UH, WHY ARE YOU CHANGED SO?
MOM TOLD ME TO KEEP YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN UNTIL THE WEDDING DAY. SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU RUNNING AWAY, SO I'M GUARDING YOU.
OH, NO!
I WAS KIDDING AROUND AS A GOAT.
THAT'S NO WAY FOR A BRIDE TO BE.
I'M GOING INSANE! LET ME OUT OF THIS PLACE!

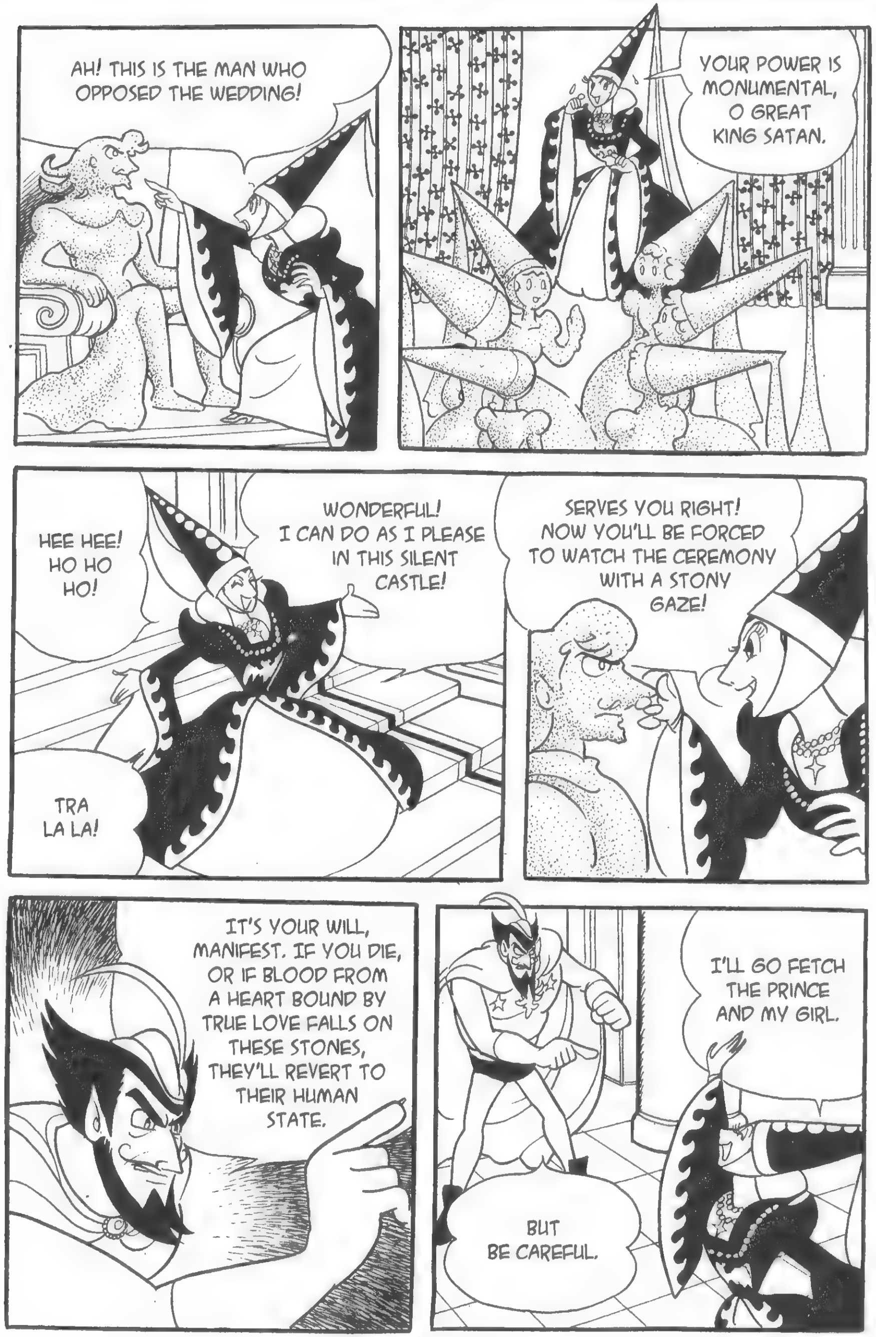

I CAN'T, PRINCE. THIS IS THE MAGIC MOUNTAIN. YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE BOTTOM EVEN IF YOU HAD 9 LIVES.
HECATE, PLEASE LET ME GO BACK TO MY COUNTRY. YOU MUST KNOW HOW I FEEL. I CAN'T MARRY YOU. YOU DON'T WANT TO MARRY ME EITHER, RIGHT?
RIGHT. HMM, WHAT TO DO?
BUT ACTUALLY, I'VE GROWN FOND OF YOU.
Y-YOU'RE JOKING!

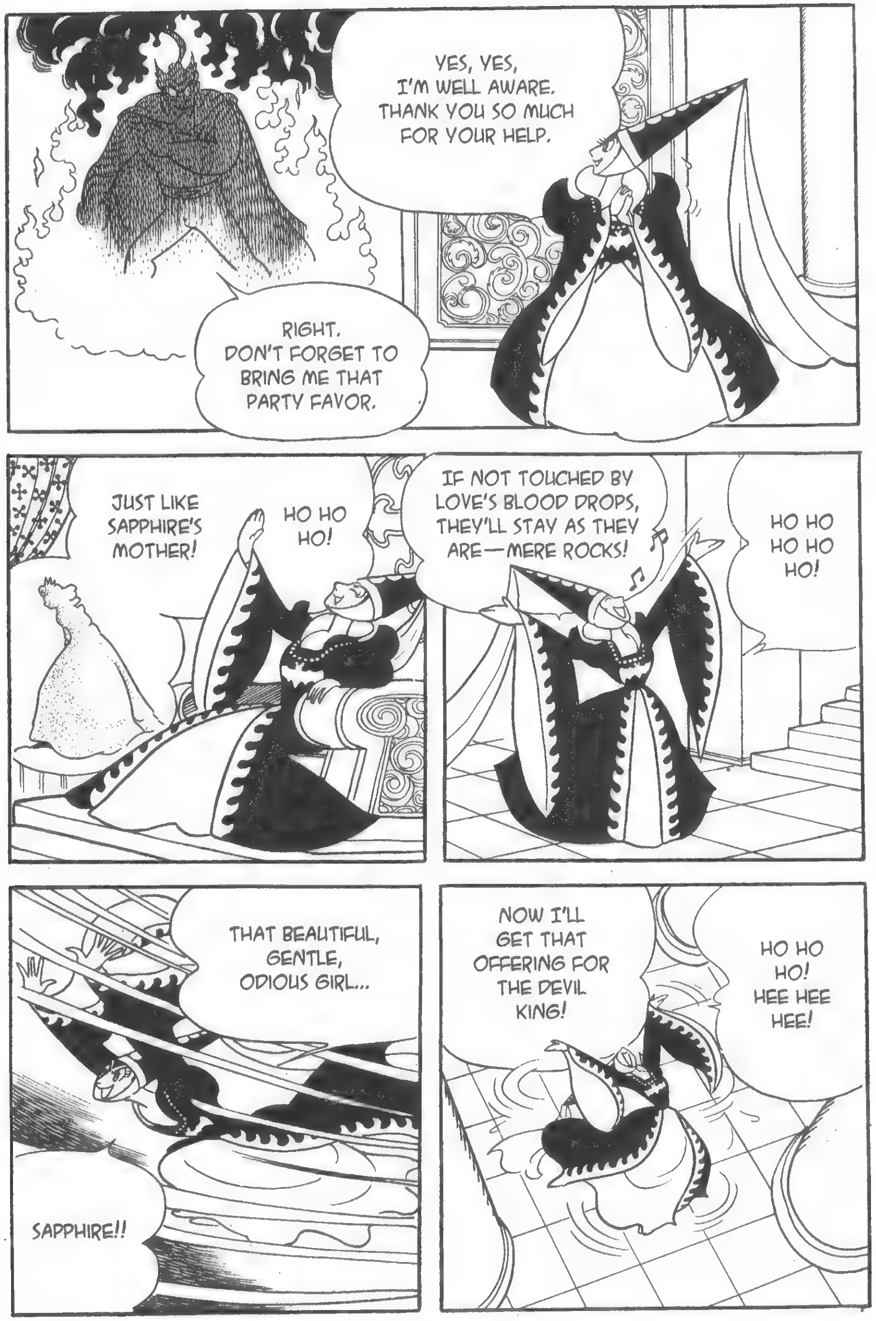

HA HA HA! DON'T GET SO DARN NERVOUS!
I HAVE AN EXCELLENT PLAN.
I'LL USE THESE LITTLE IMPS. DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE ALL MY SWORN MINIONS.
WE'LL PLAY IT COOL AND GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF THE CEREMONY.
S-SO YOU DO WANT TO GET MARRIED.
HUSH. DURING THE CEREMONY, WE'LL "WHISPER" "WHISPER" OK?


RIGHT AROUND HERE, KING SATAN.
THIS CREEK FLOWS INTO THE CASTLE GARDENS.
HEH HEH. I'LL POUR THIS POTION INTO THE CREEK. ANYONE THAT DRINKS FROM IT WILL BE TURNED TO STONE WITHIN 3 SECONDS. WATCH.
SNAP


TWEET TWEET!
CHIRP, CHIRP, CHIRP!
HEY, LOOK! I FOUND A STONE BIRD IN THE STREAM!
OH, LOOK!
THE FLOWERS ON THE BANK ARE MADE OF STONE, TOO! SOMEONE'S PLAYING A WEIRD PRANK.
HEY! STOP LOITERING! HURRY UP AND HAUL THAT WATER BACK RIGHT NOW!
UGH, THE HEADMISTRESS IS ALWAYS SO INDIFFERENT, I CAN'T STAND IT.

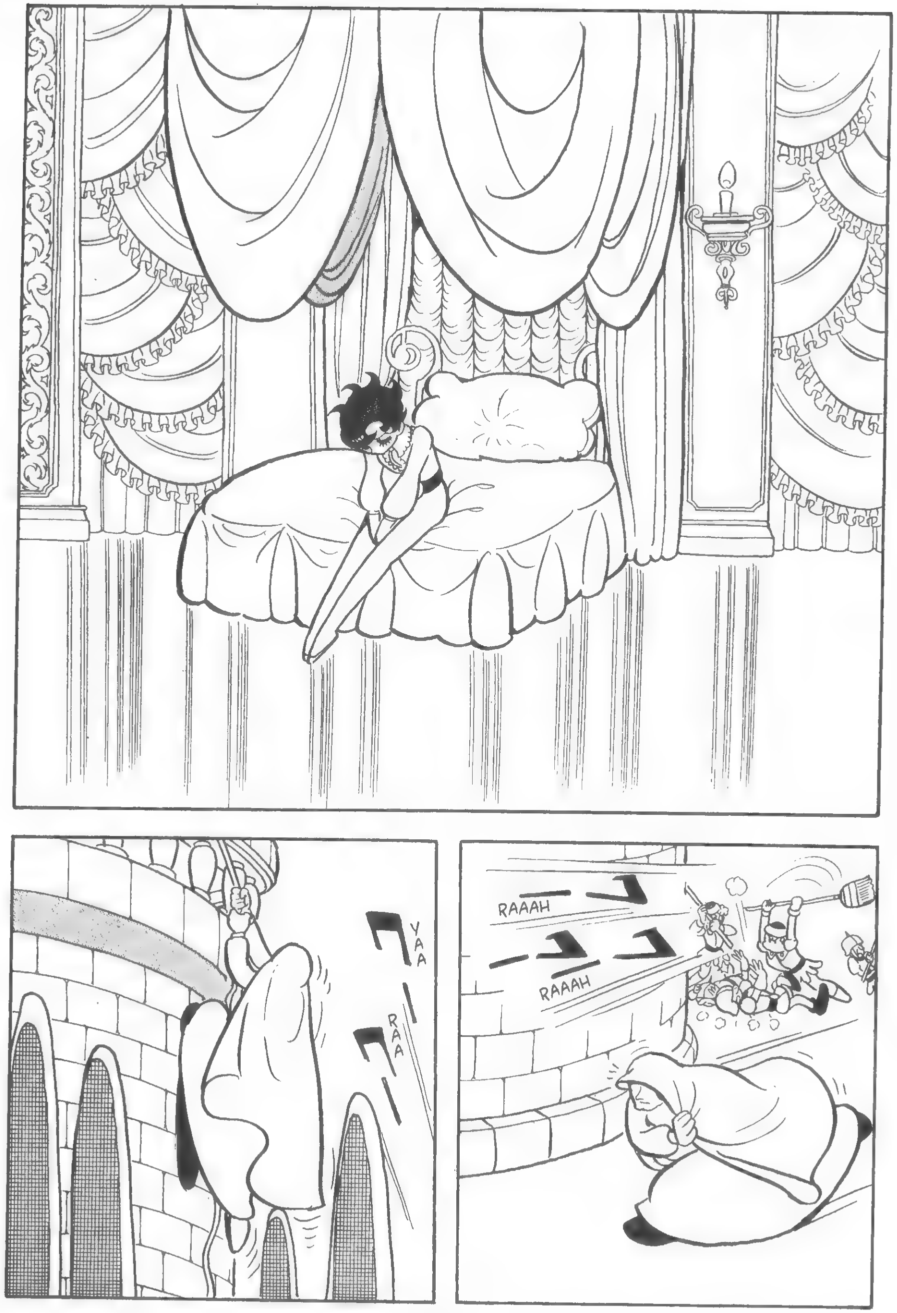

LOOK, THOSE WOMEN ARE CARRYING WATER INTO THE CASTLE FOR THE COURTIERS TO DRINK.
LISTEN... THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE WITHIN THE CASTLE...
ザワ HUB BUB
ガヤガヤ HUB BUB
GETTING QUIETER NOW...
AND FINALLY IT'S COMPLETELY STILL AND SILENT.
HOW'S THAT?
OH! EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM HAS TURNED INTO A STATUE!

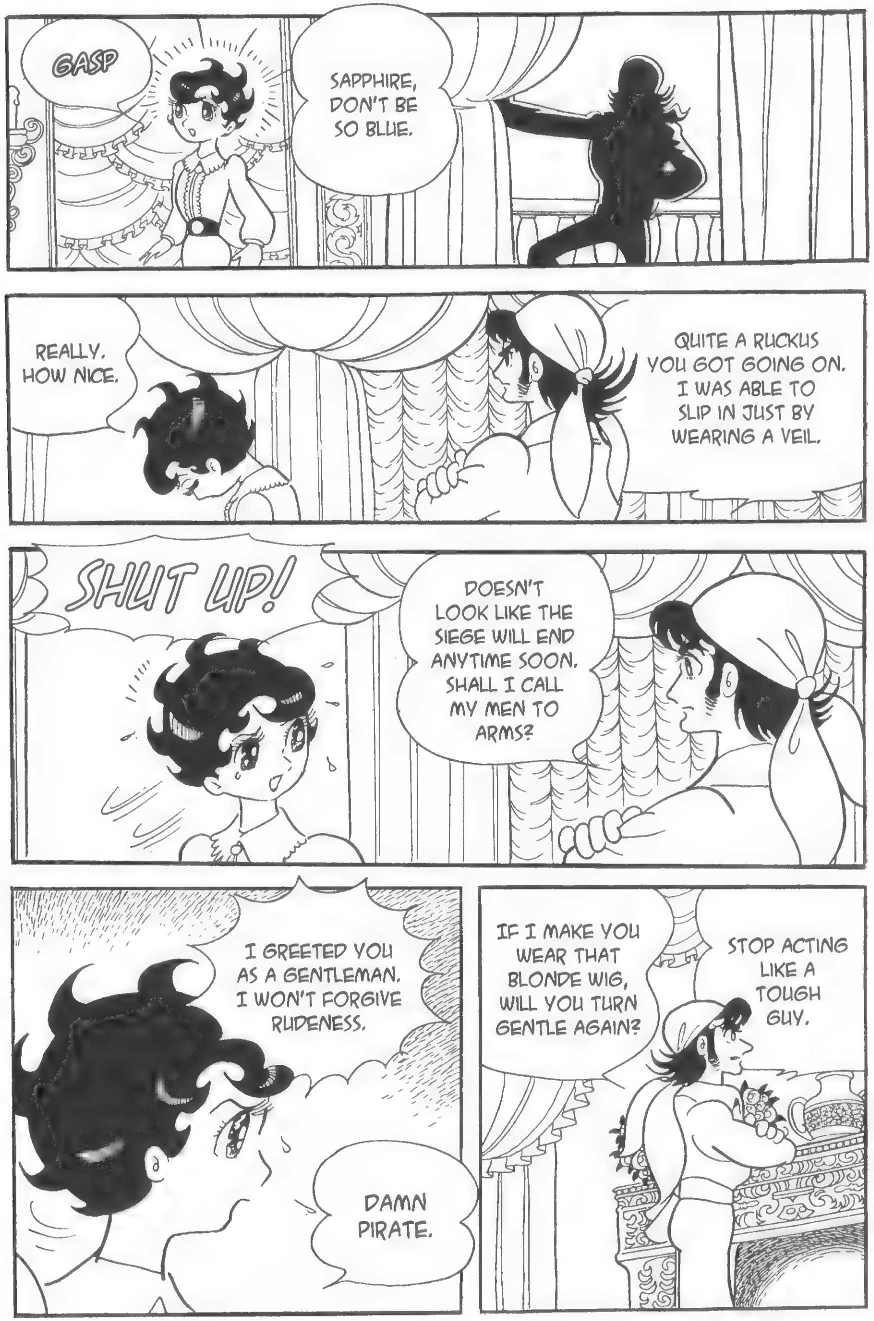

YOUR POWER IS MONUMENTAL, O GREAT KING SATAN.
AH! THIS IS THE MAN WHO OPPOSED THE WEDDING!
SERVES YOU RIGHT! NOW YOU'LL BE FORCED TO WATCH THE CEREMONY WITH A STONY GAZE!
WONDERFUL! I CAN DO AS I PLEASE IN THIS SILENT CASTLE!
HEE HEE! HO HO HO!
TRA LA LA!
I'LL GO FETCH THE PRINCE AND MY GIRL.
BUT BE CAREFUL.
IT'S YOUR WILL, MANIFEST. IF YOU DIE, OR IF BLOOD FROM A HEART BOUND BY TRUE LOVE FALLS ON THESE STONES, THEY'LL REVERT TO THEIR HUMAN STATE.

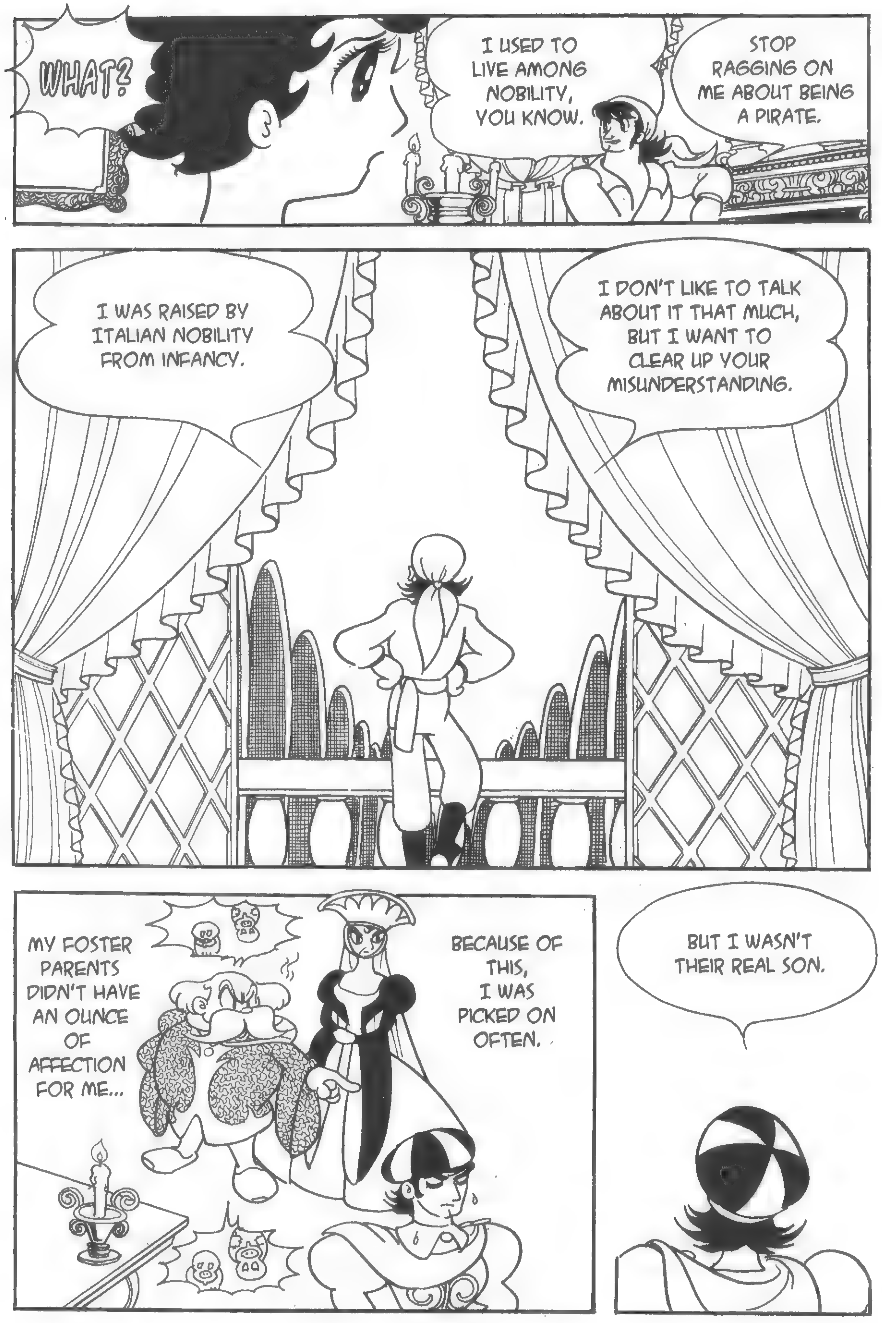

YES, YES, I'M WELL AWARE. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.
RIGHT. DON'T FORGET TO BRING ME THAT PARTY FAVOR.
HO HO HO HO HO!
IF NOT TOUCHED BY LOVE'S BLOOD DROPS, THEY'LL STAY AS THEY ARE—MERE ROCKS!
HO HO HO!
JUST LIKE SAPPHIRE'S MOTHER!
HO HO HO! HEE HEE HEE!
NOW I'LL GET THAT OFFERING FOR THE DEVIL KING!
THAT BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE, ODIOUS GIRL...
SAPPHIRE!!

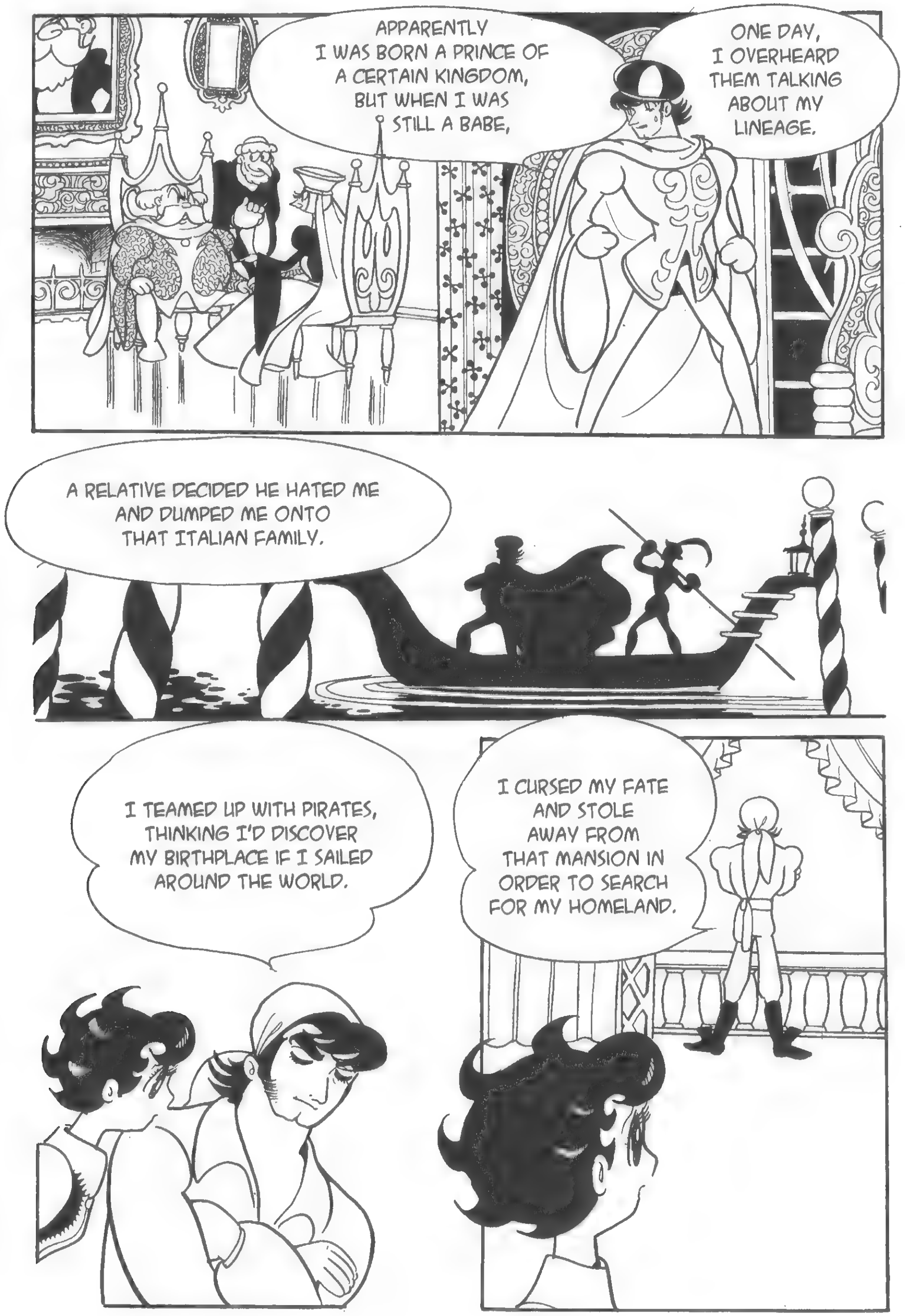
Chapter 21

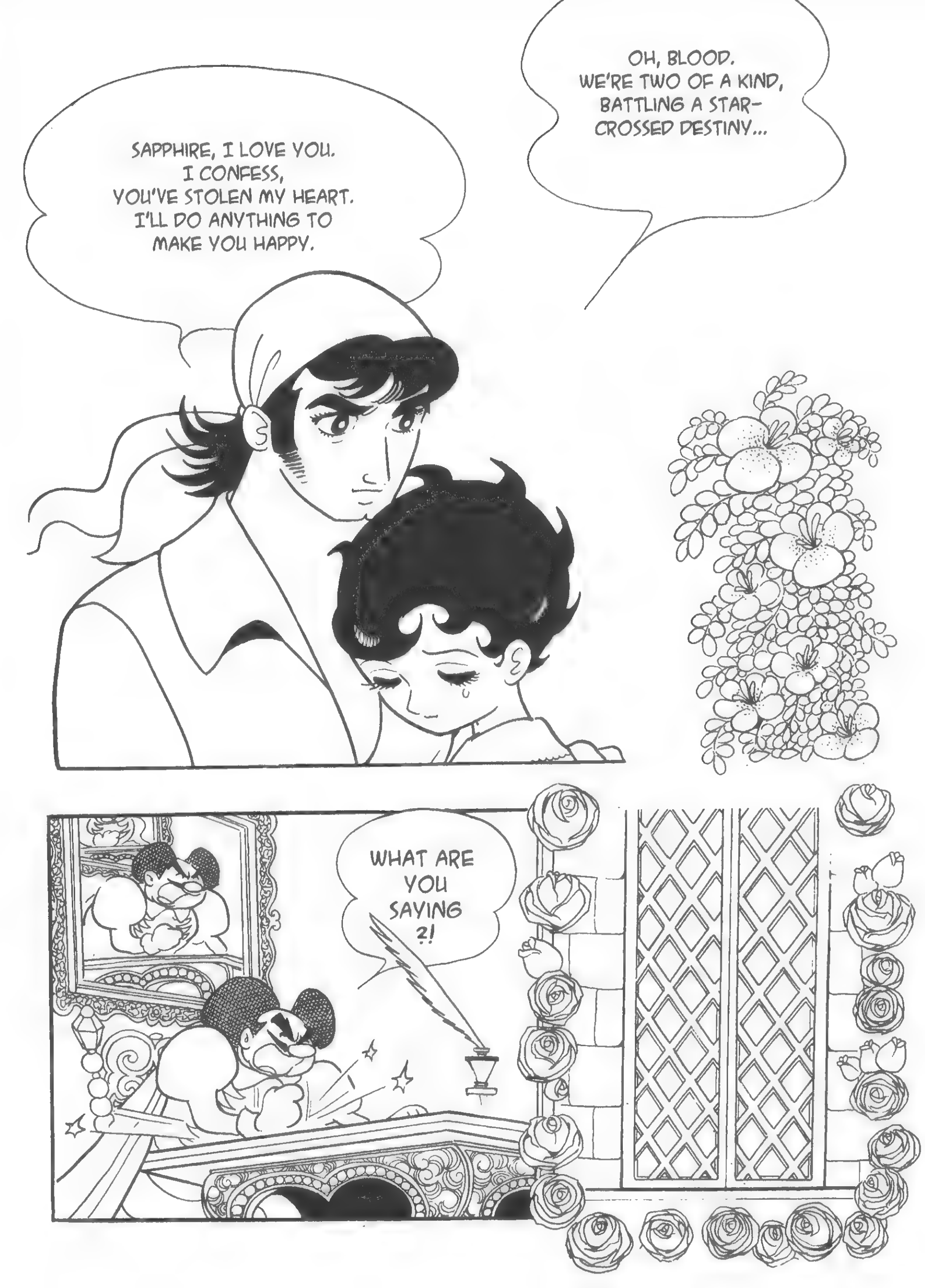
Two Slumbers

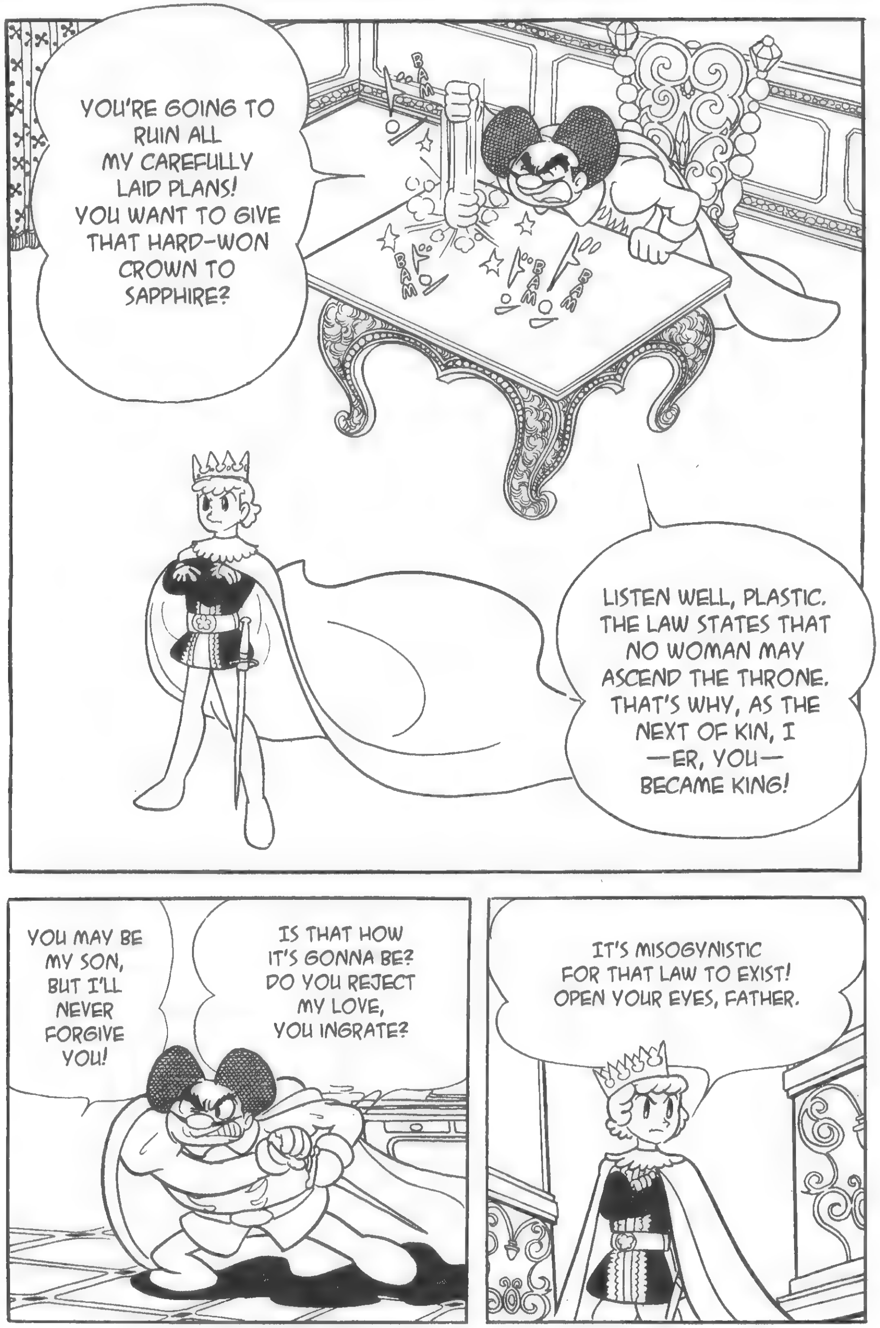

RAAAH
RAAAH
YAAA
RAAA

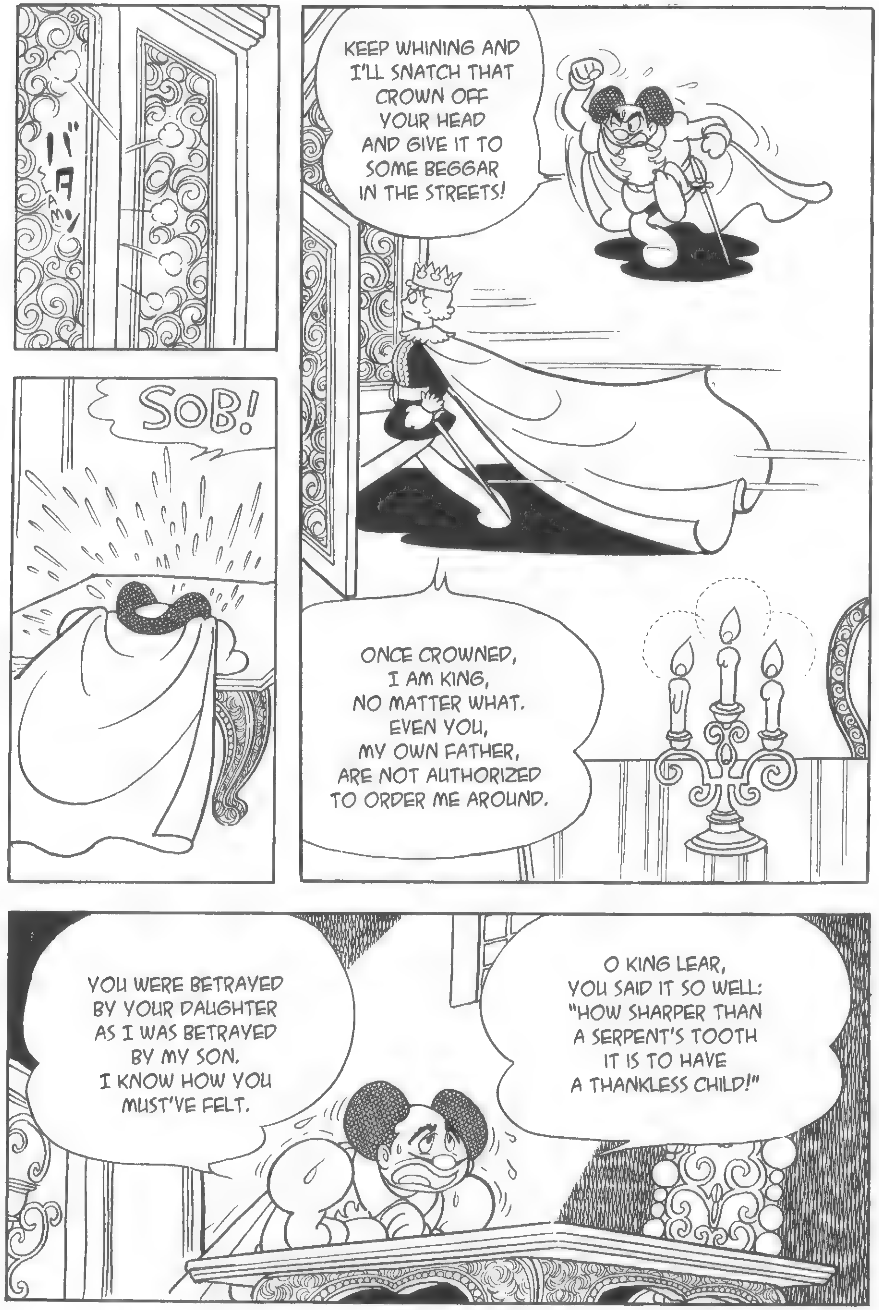

SAPPHIRE, DON'T BE SO BLUE.
GASP
QUITE A RUCKUS YOU GOT GOING ON. I WAS ABLE TO SLIP IN JUST BY WEARING A VEIL.
REALLY. HOW NICE.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE SIEGE WILL END ANYTIME SOON. SHALL I CALL MY MEN TO ARMS?
SHUT UP!
STOP ACTING LIKE A TOUGH GUY.
IF I MAKE YOU WEAR THAT BLONDE WIG, WILL YOU TURN GENTLE AGAIN?
I GREETED YOU AS A GENTLEMAN. I WON'T FORGIVE RUDENESS.
DAMN PIRATE.

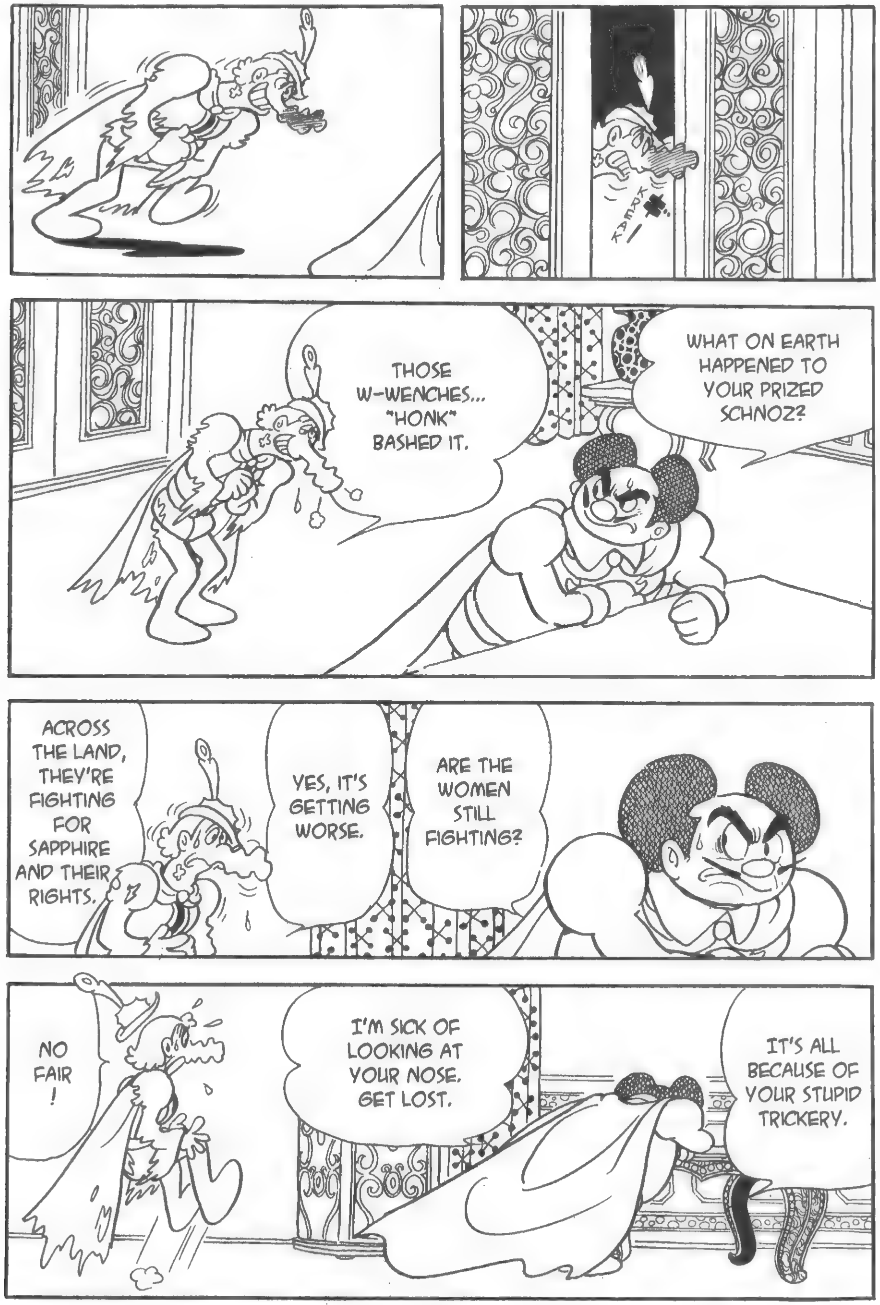

STOP RAGGING ON ME ABOUT BEING A PIRATE.
I USED TO LIVE AMONG NOBILITY, YOU KNOW.
WHAT?
I DON'T LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT THAT MUCH, BUT I WANT TO CLEAR UP YOUR MISUNDERSTANDING.
I WAS RAISED BY ITALIAN NOBILITY FROM INFANCY.
BUT I WASN'T THEIR REAL SON.
BECAUSE OF THIS, I WAS PICKED ON OFTEN.
MY FOSTER PARENTS DIDN'T HAVE AN OUNCE OF AFFECTION FOR ME...

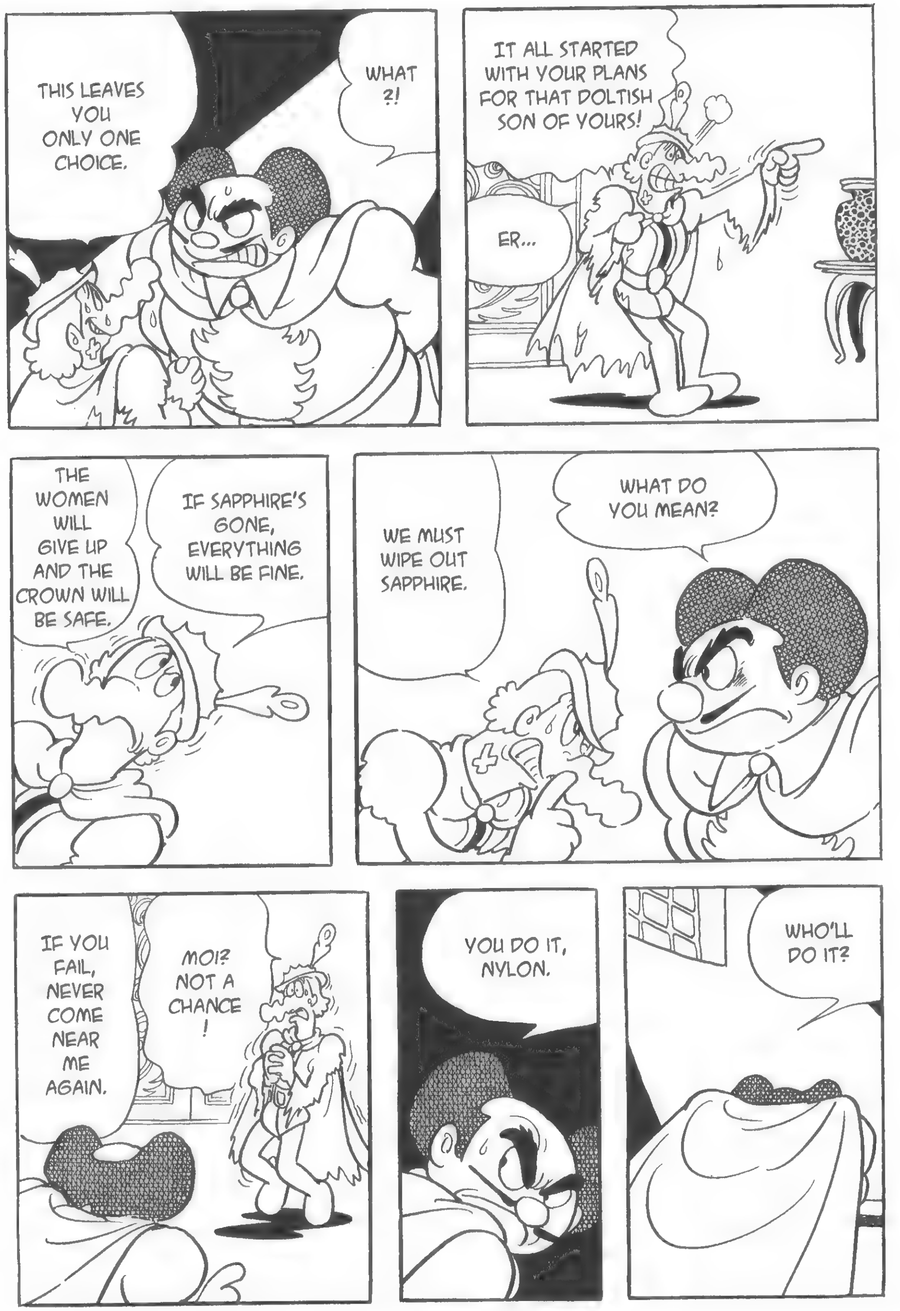

ONE DAY, I OVERHEARD THEM TALKING ABOUT MY LINEAGE.
APPARENTLY I WAS BORN A PRINCE OF A CERTAIN KINGDOM, BUT WHEN I WAS STILL A BABE,
A RELATIVE DECIDED HE HATED ME AND DUMPED ME ONTO THAT ITALIAN FAMILY.
I CURSED MY FATE AND STOLE AWAY FROM THAT MANSION IN ORDER TO SEARCH FOR MY HOMELAND.
I TEAMED UP WITH PIRATES, THINKING I'D DISCOVER MY BIRTHPLACE IF I SAILED AROUND THE WORLD.

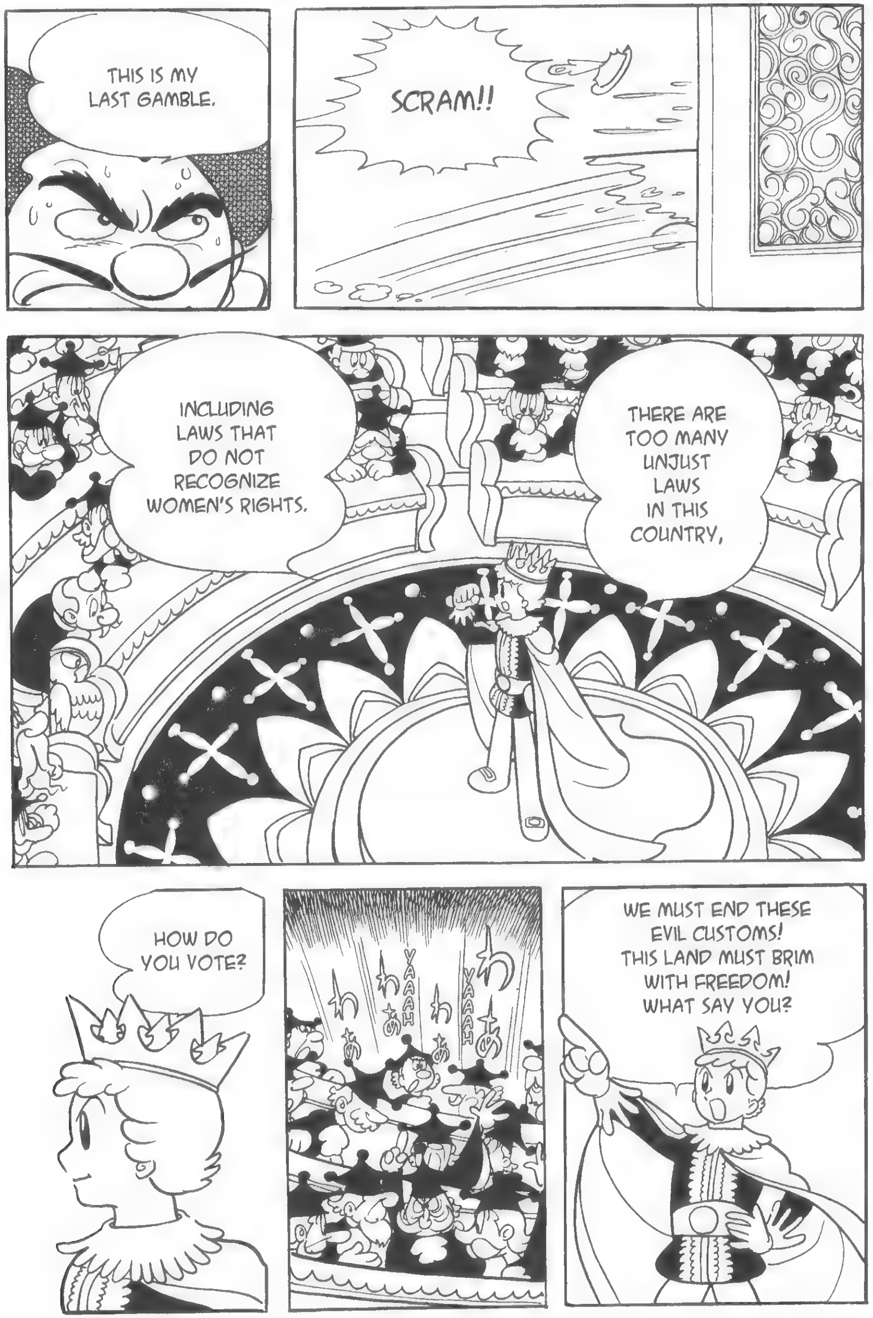

SAPPHIRE, I LOVE YOU. I CONFESS, YOU'VE STOLEN MY HEART. I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
OH, BLOOD. WE'RE TWO OF A KIND, BATTLING A STAR-CROSSED DESTINY...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!

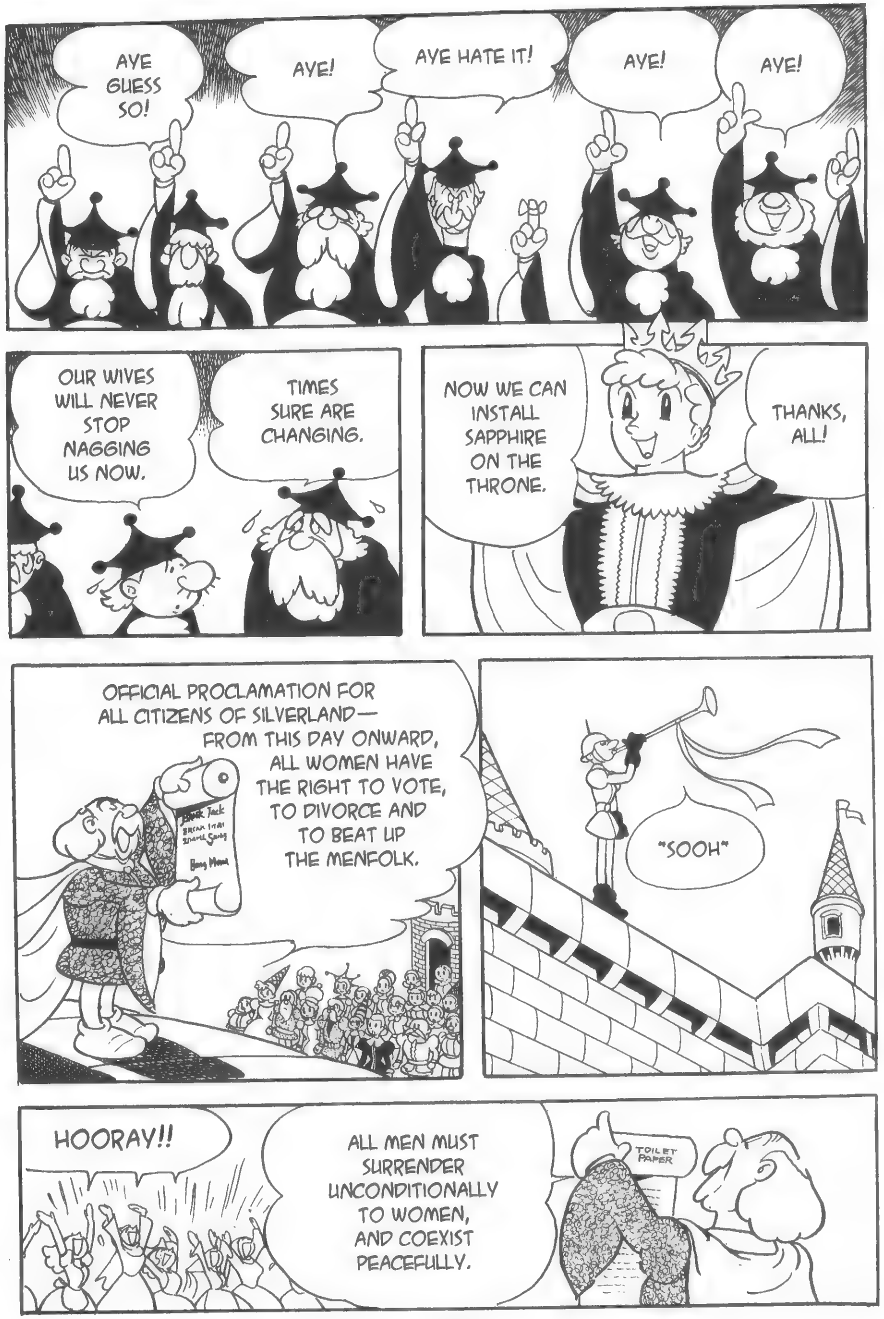

YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN ALL MY CAREFULLY LAID PLANS! YOU WANT TO GIVE THAT HARD-WON CROWN TO SAPPHIRE?
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
LISTEN WELL, PLASTIC. THE LAW STATES THAT NO WOMAN MAY ASCEND THE THRONE. THAT'S WHY, AS THE NEXT OF KIN, I —ER, YOU— BECAME KING!
IT'S MISOGYNISTIC FOR THAT LAW TO EXIST! OPEN YOUR EYES, FATHER.
IS THAT HOW IT'S GONNA BE? DO YOU REJECT MY LOVE, YOU INGRATE?
YOU MAY BE MY SON, BUT I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!

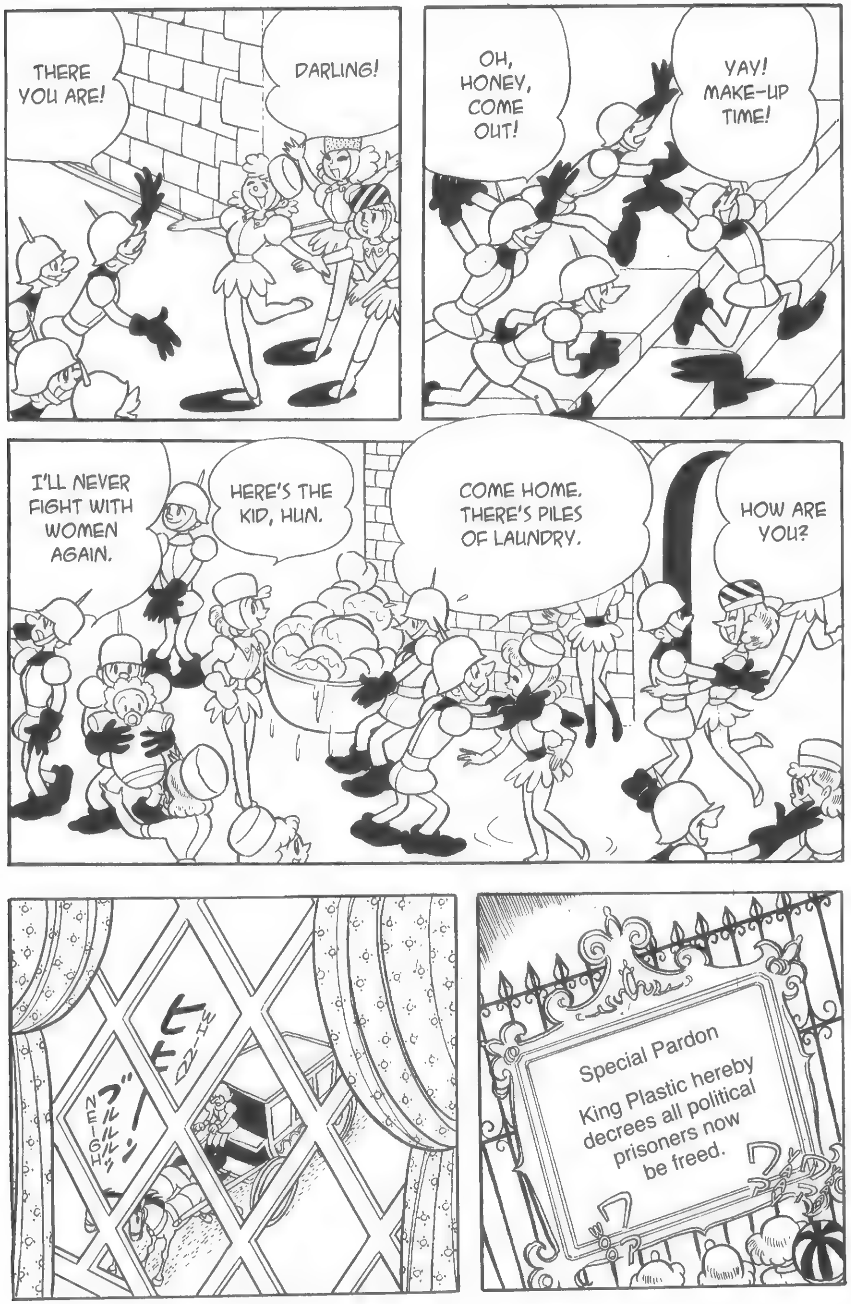

KEEP WHINING AND I'LL SNATCH THAT CROWN OFF YOUR HEAD AND GIVE IT TO SOME BEGGAR IN THE STREETS!
ONCE CROWNED, I AM KING, NO MATTER WHAT. EVEN YOU, MY OWN FATHER, ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO ORDER ME AROUND.
バタッ
SLAM
SOB!
O KING LEAR, YOU SAID IT SO WELL: "HOW SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH IT IS TO HAVE A THANKLESS CHILD!"
YOU WERE BETRAYED BY YOUR DAUGHTER AS I WAS BETRAYED BY MY SON. I KNOW HOW YOU MUST'VE FELT.

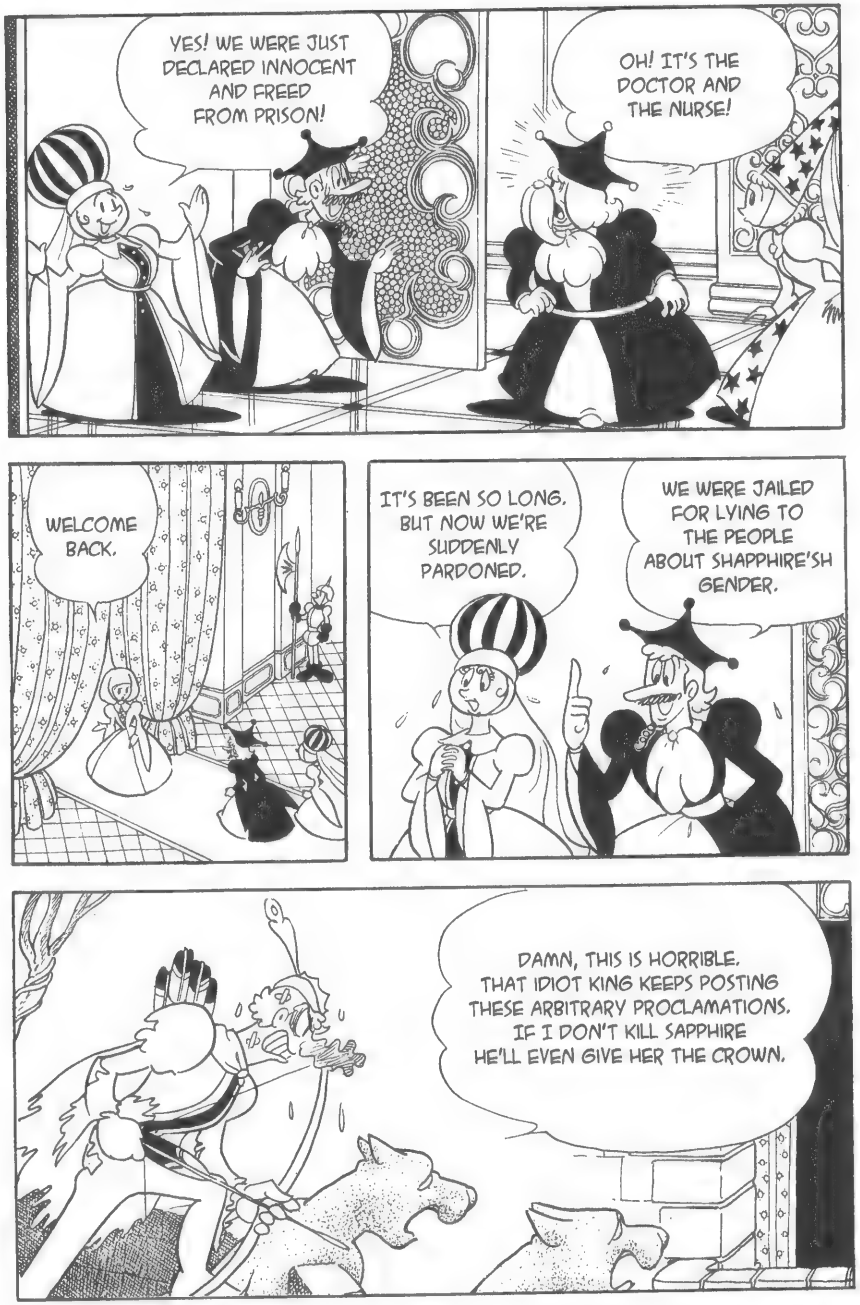

KAERK!
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOUR PRIZED SCHNOZ?
THOSE W-WENCHES... "HONK" BASHED IT.
ARE THE WOMEN STILL FIGHTING?
YES, IT'S GETTING WORSE.
ACROSS THE LAND, THEY'RE FIGHTING FOR SAPPHIRE AND THEIR RIGHTS.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID TRICKERY.
I'M SICK OF LOOKING AT YOUR NOSE. GET LOST.
NO FAIR!

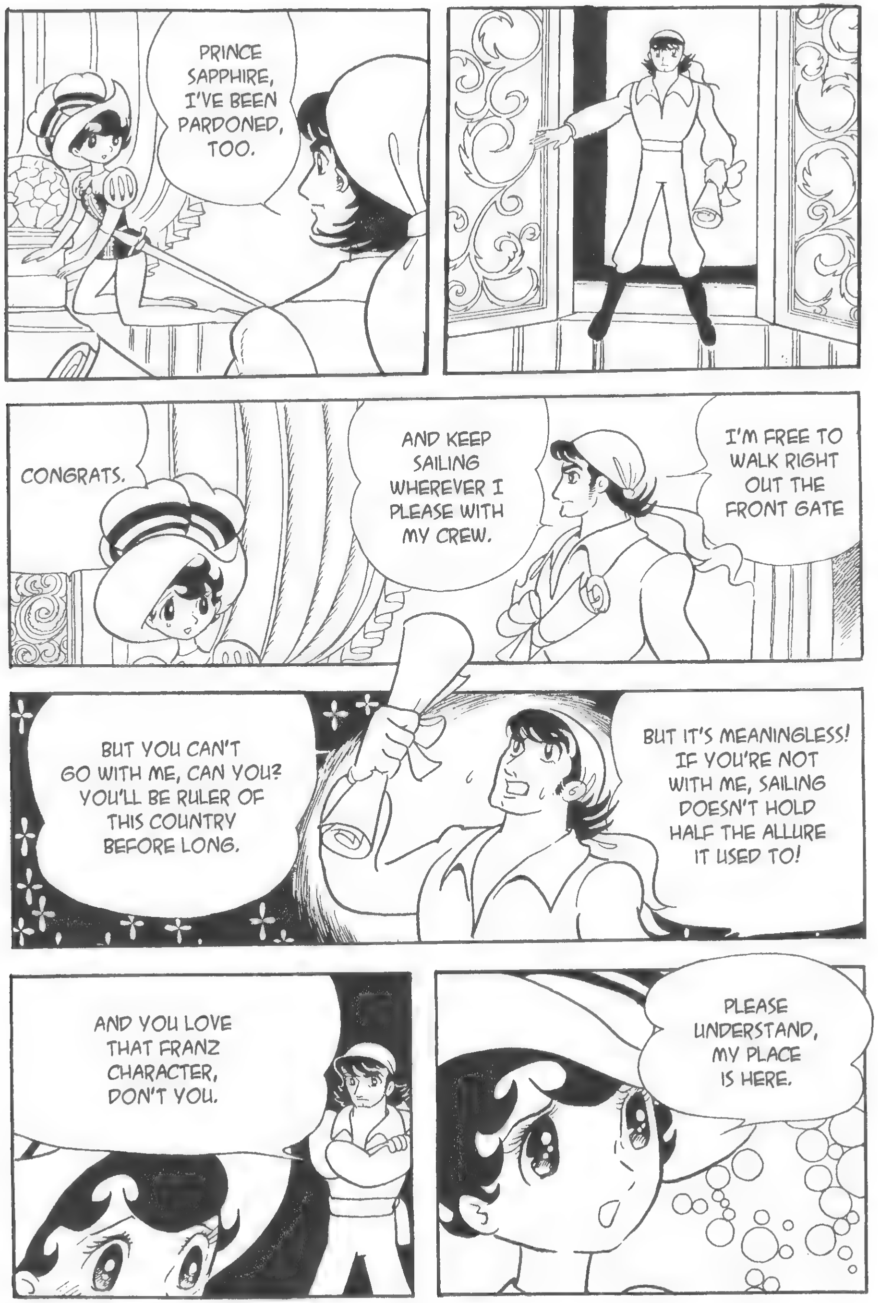

IT ALL STARTED WITH YOUR PLANS FOR THAT DOLTISH SON OF YOURS!
ER...
WHAT ?!
THIS LEAVES YOU ONLY ONE CHOICE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE MUST WIPE OUT SAPPHIRE.
IF SAPPHIRE'S GONE, EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
THE WOMEN WILL GIVE UP AND THE CROWN WILL BE SAFE.
WHO'LL DO IT?
YOU DO IT, NYLON.
MOI? NOT A CHANCE !
IF YOU FAIL, NEVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN.

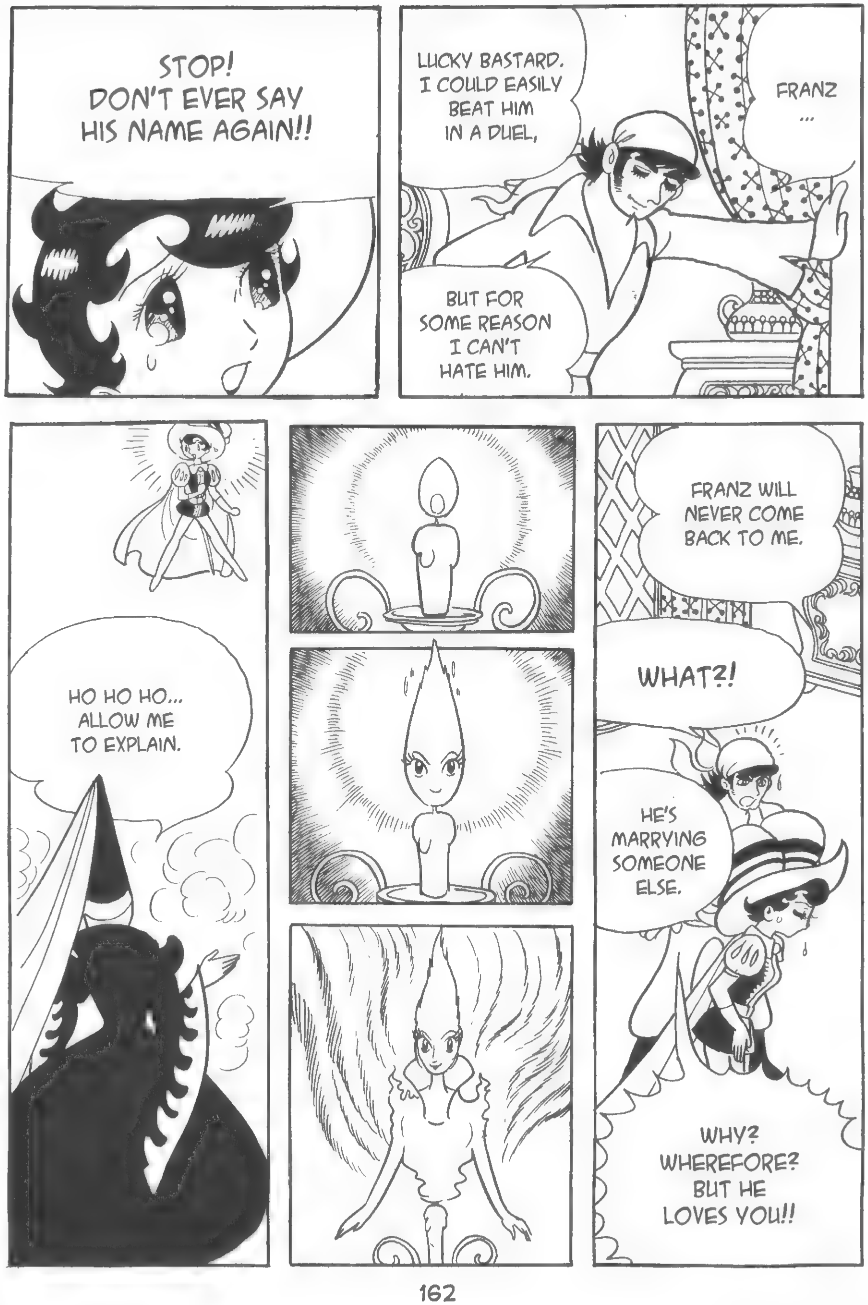

SCRAM!!
THIS IS MY LAST GAMBLE.
THERE ARE TOO MANY UNJUST LAWS IN THIS COUNTRY,
INCLUDING LAWS THAT DO NOT RECOGNIZE WOMEN'S RIGHTS.
WE MUST END THESE EVIL CUSTOMS! THIS LAND MUST BRIM WITH FREEDOM! WHAT SAY YOU?
YAAAAH
YAAAH
わあ
HOW DO YOU VOTE?

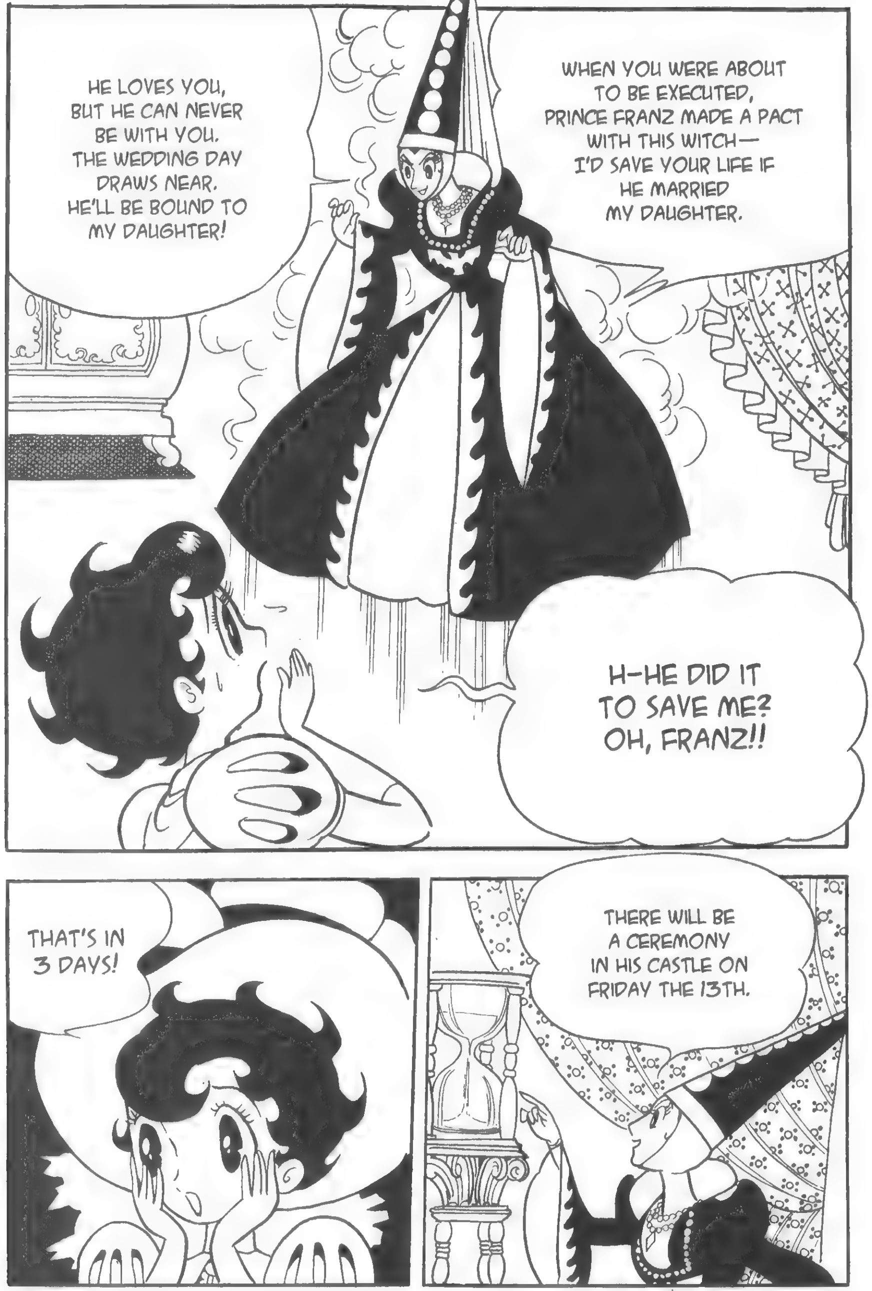

AYE!
AYE!
AYE HATE IT!
AYE!
AYE GUESS SO!
THANKS, ALL!
NOW WE CAN INSTALL SAPPHIRE ON THE THRONE.
TIMES SURE ARE CHANGING.
OUR WIVES WILL NEVER STOP NAGGING US NOW.
"SOOH"
OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION FOR ALL CITIZENS OF SILVERLAND— FROM THIS DAY ONWARD, ALL WOMEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE, TO DIVORCE AND TO BEAT UP THE MENFOLK.
TOILET PAPER
ALL MEN MUST SURRENDER UNCONDITIONALLY TO WOMEN, AND COEXIST PEACEFULLY.
HOORAY!!

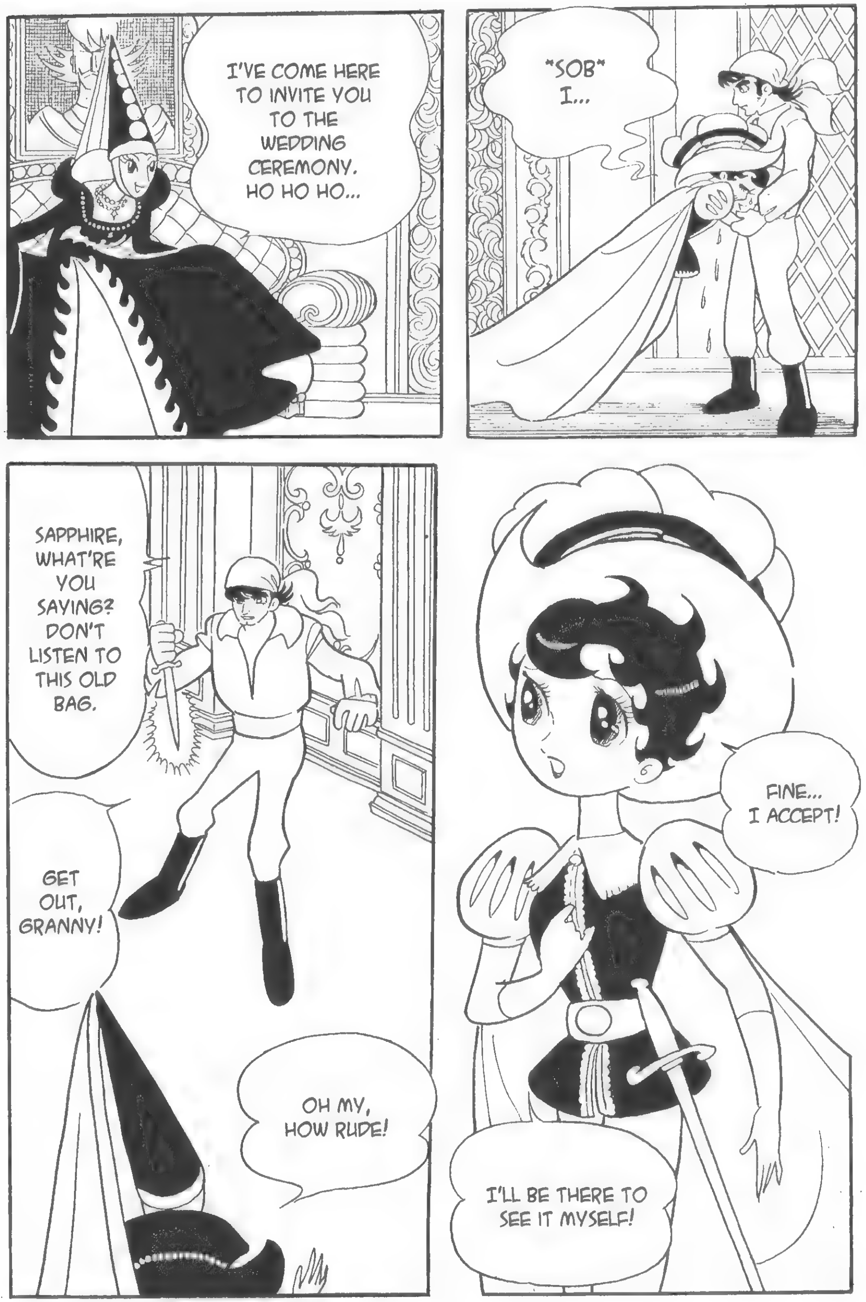

YAY! MAKE-UP TIME!
OH, HONEY, COME OUT!
DARLING!
THERE YOU ARE!
HOW ARE YOU?
COME HOME. THERE'S PILES OF LAUNDRY.
HERE'S THE KID, HUN.
I'LL NEVER FIGHT WITH WOMEN AGAIN.
Special Pardon
King Plastic hereby decrees all political prisoners now be freed.
ヒヒーン
WHINNY
ブルルルッ
NEIGH

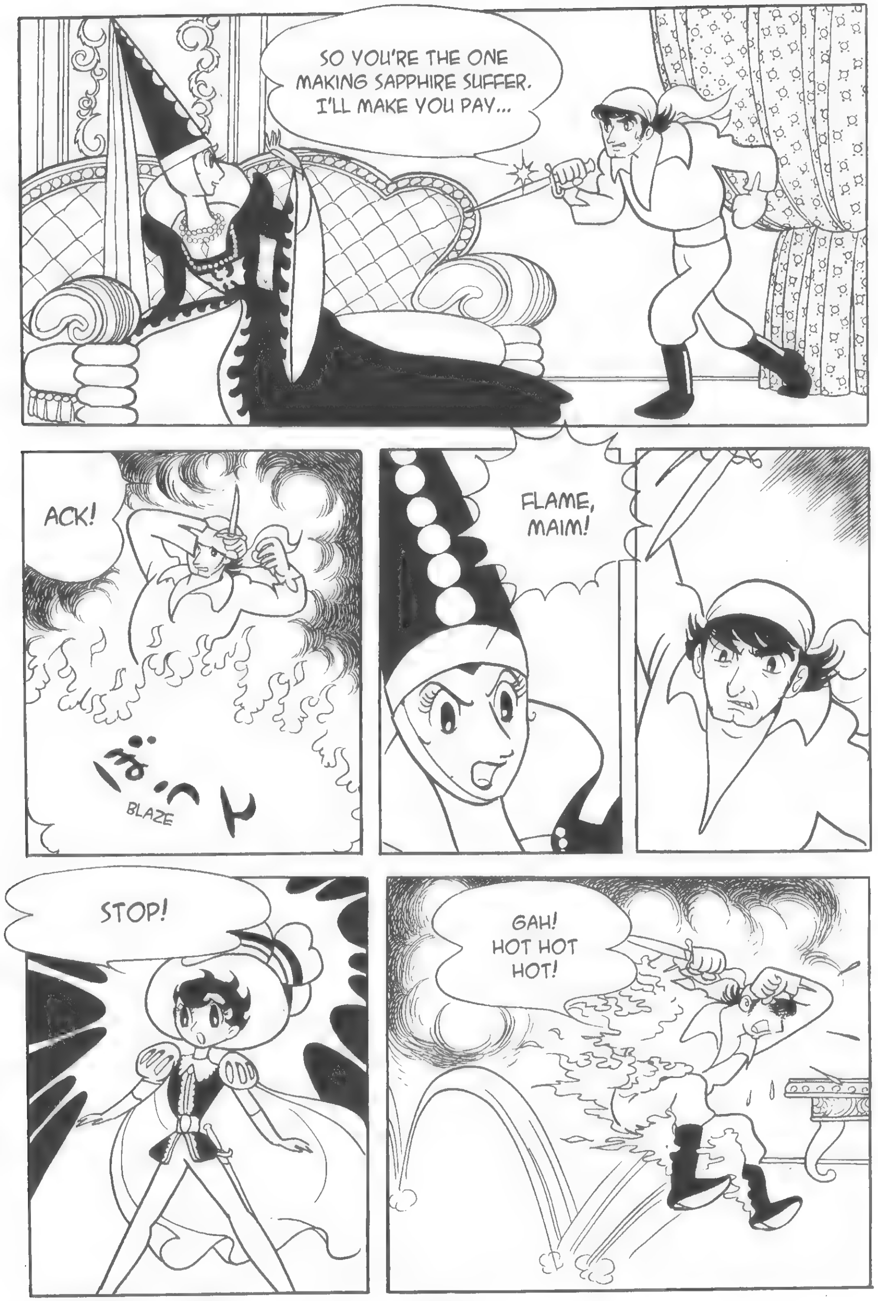

OH! IT'S THE DOCTOR AND THE NURSE!
YES! WE WERE JUST DECLARED INNOCENT AND FREED FROM PRISON!
WE WERE JAILED FOR LYING TO THE PEOPLE ABOUT SHAPPHIRE'SH GENDER.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG. BUT NOW WE'RE SUDDENLY PARDONED.
WELCOME BACK.
DAMN, THIS IS HORRIBLE. THAT IDIOT KING KEEPS POSTING THESE ARBITRARY PROCLAMATIONS. IF I DON'T KILL SAPPHIRE HE'LL EVEN GIVE HER THE CROWN.

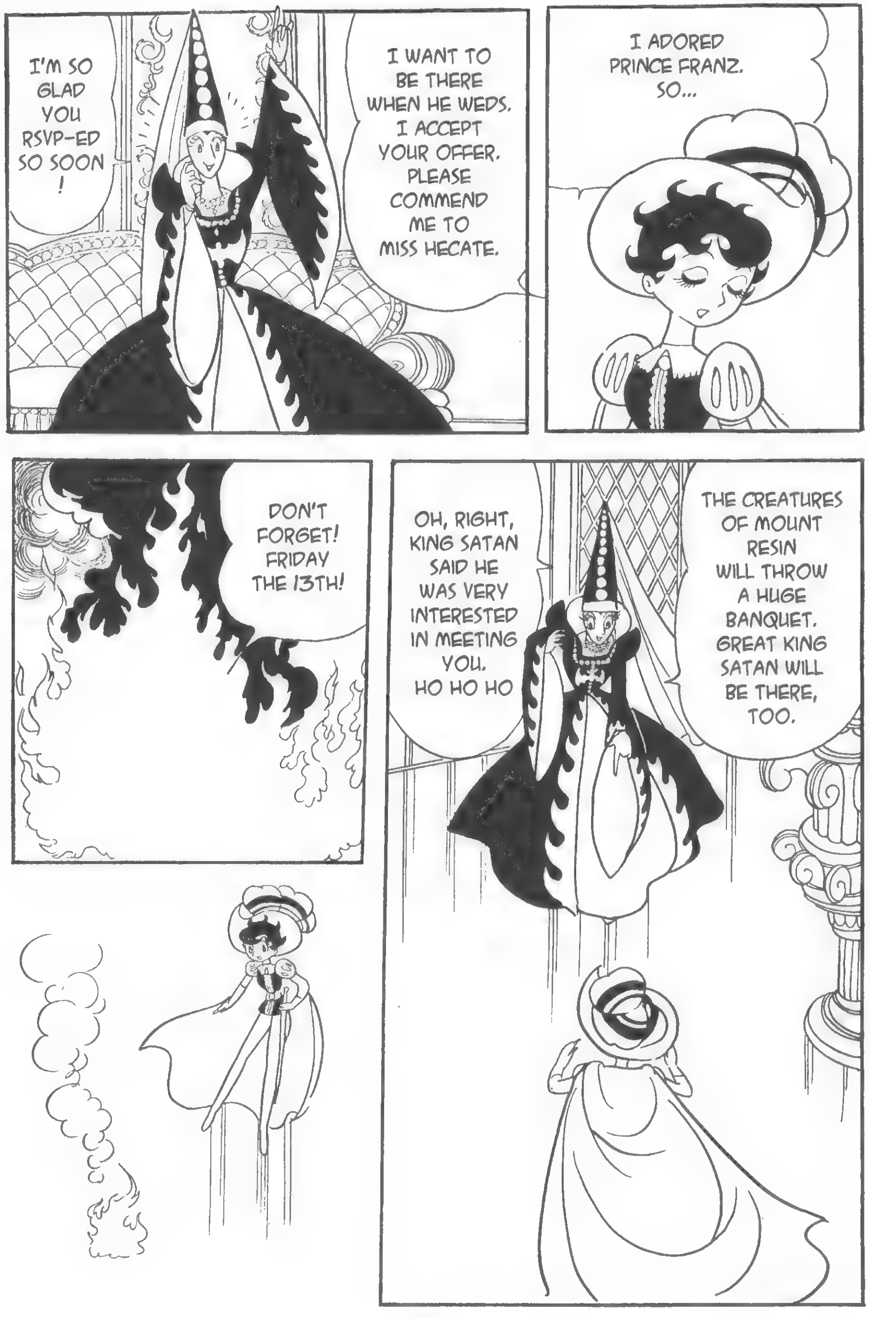

PRINCE SAPPHIRE, I'VE BEEN PARDONED, TOO.
I'M FREE TO WALK RIGHT OUT THE FRONT GATE
AND KEEP SAILING WHEREVER I PLEASE WITH MY CREW.
CONGRATS.
BUT IT'S MEANINGLESS! IF YOU'RE NOT WITH ME, SAILING DOESN'T HOLD HALF THE ALLURE IT USED TO!
BUT YOU CAN'T GO WITH ME, CAN YOU? YOU'LL BE RULER OF THIS COUNTRY BEFORE LONG.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, MY PLACE IS HERE.
AND YOU LOVE THAT FRANZ CHARACTER, DON'T YOU.

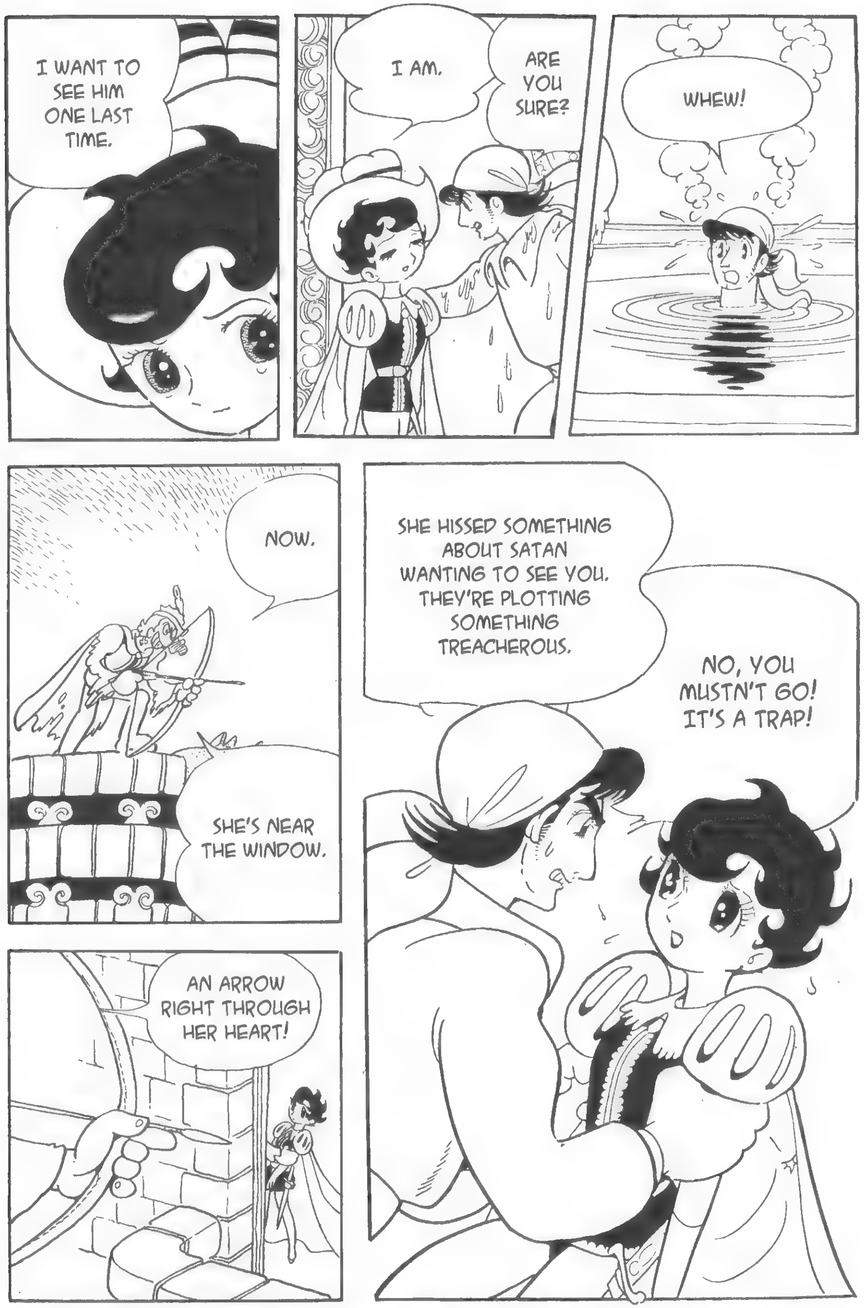

LUCKY BASTARD. I COULD EASILY BEAT HIM IN A DUEL,
BUT FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T HATE HIM.
FRANZ ...
STOP! DON'T EVER SAY HIS NAME AGAIN!!
FRANZ WILL NEVER COME BACK TO ME.
WHAT?!
HE'S MARRYING SOMEONE ELSE.
WHY? WHEREFORE? BUT HE LOVES YOU!!
HO HO HO... ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN.

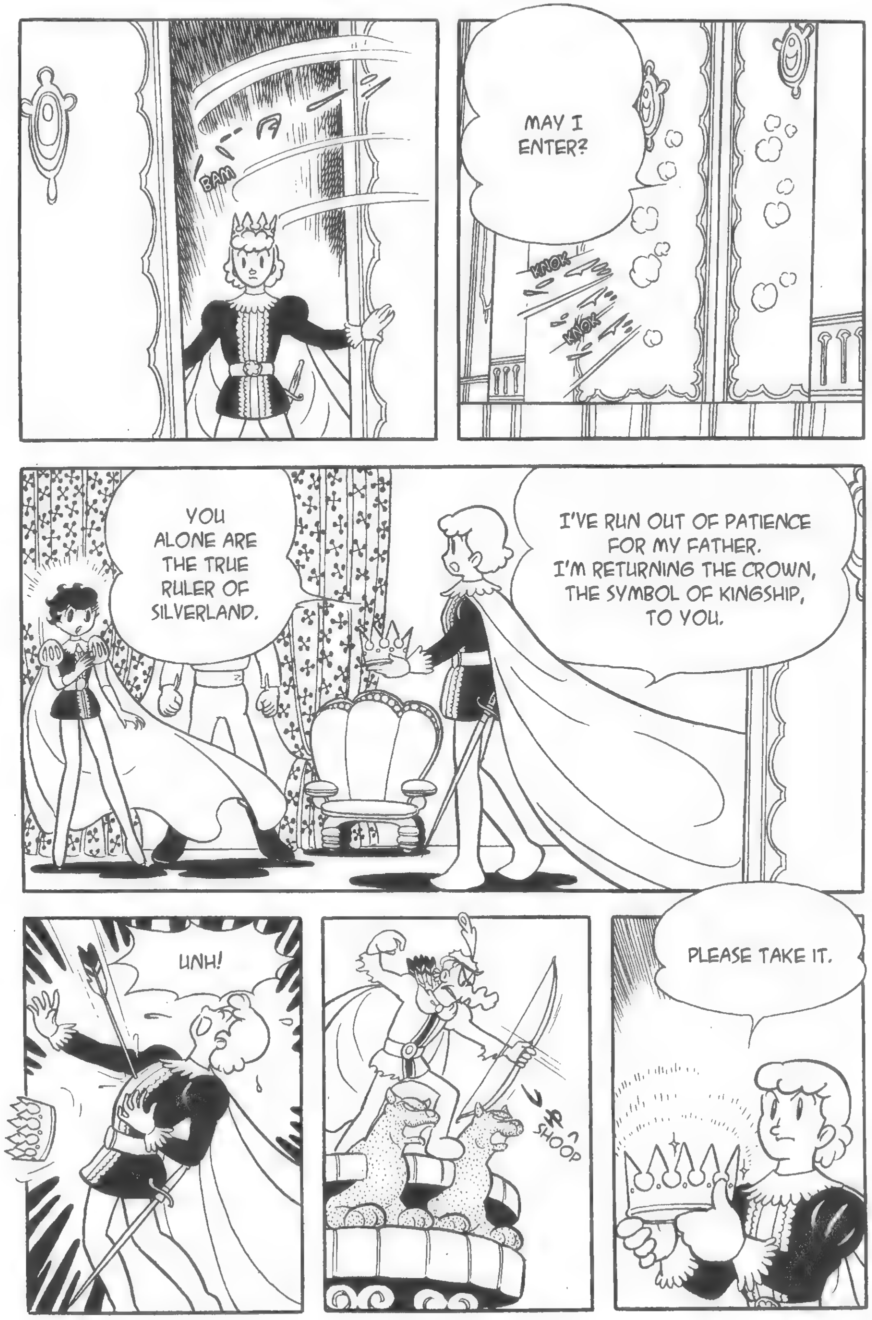

WHEN YOU WERE ABOUT TO BE EXECUTED, PRINCE FRANZ MADE A PACT WITH THIS WITCH— I'D SAVE YOUR LIFE IF HE MARRIED MY DAUGHTER.
HE LOVES YOU, BUT HE CAN NEVER BE WITH YOU. THE WEDDING DAY DRAWS NEAR. HE'LL BE BOUND TO MY DAUGHTER!
H-HE DID IT TO SAVE ME? OH, FRANZ!!
THERE WILL BE A CEREMONY IN HIS CASTLE ON FRIDAY THE 13TH.
THAT'S IN 3 DAYS!

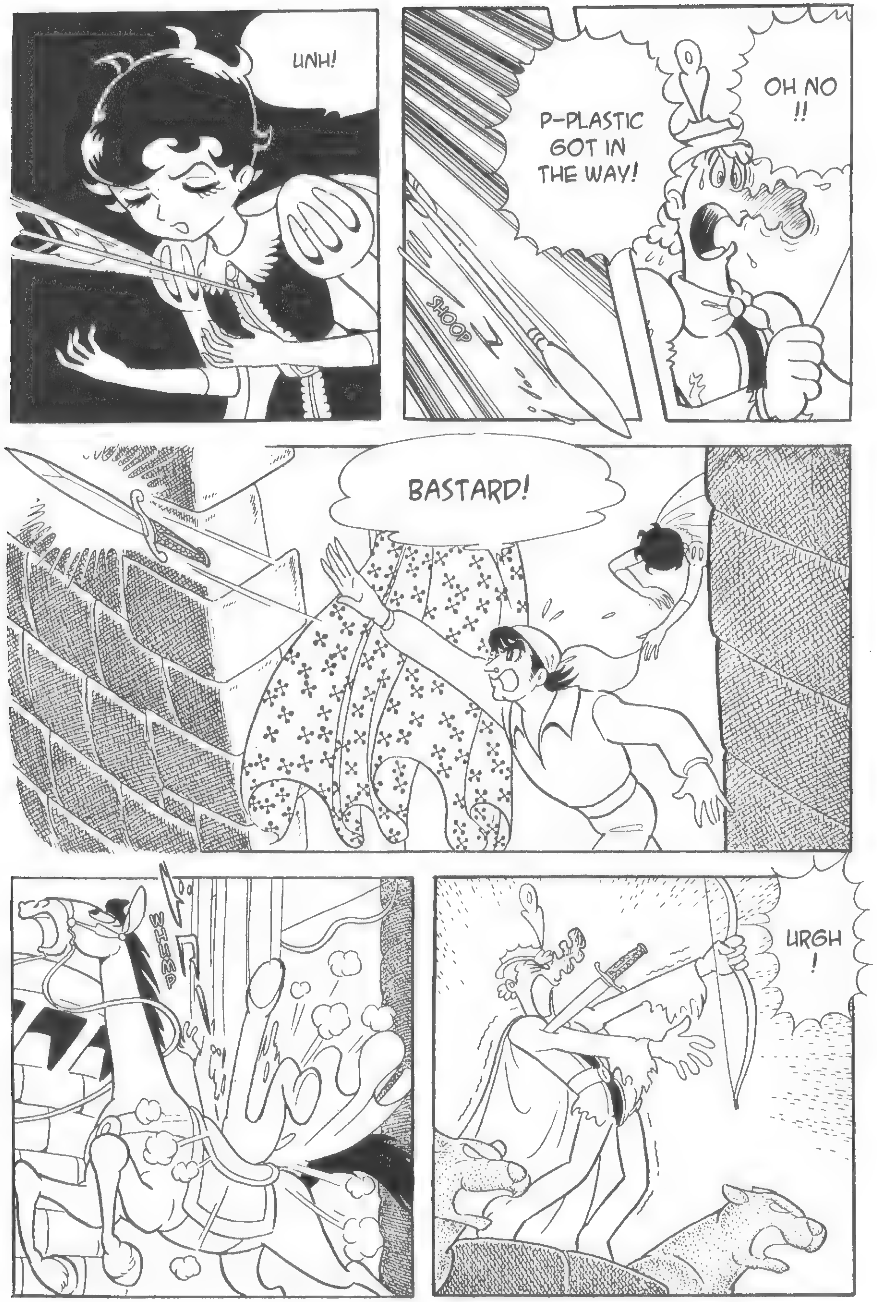

"SOB" I...
I'VE COME HERE TO INVITE YOU TO THE WEDDING CEREMONY. HO HO HO...
FINE... I ACCEPT!
I'LL BE THERE TO SEE IT MYSELF!
SAPPHIRE, WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? DON'T LISTEN TO THIS OLD BAG.
GET OUT, GRANNY!
OH MY, HOW RUDE!

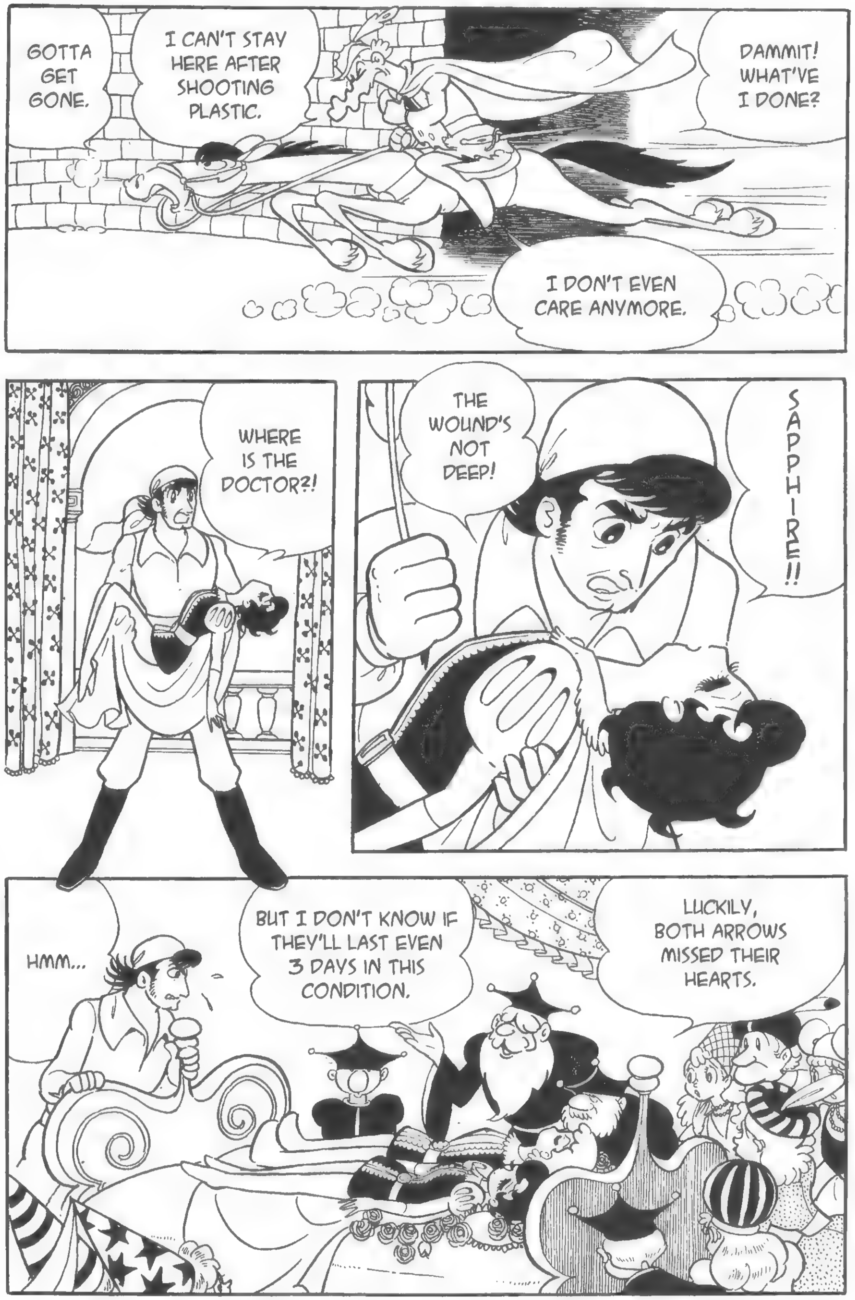

SO YOU'RE THE ONE MAKING SAPPHIRE SUFFER. I'LL MAKE YOU PAY...
FLAME, MAIM!
ACK!
ぼ〜っ
BLAZE
GAH! HOT HOT HOT!
STOP!

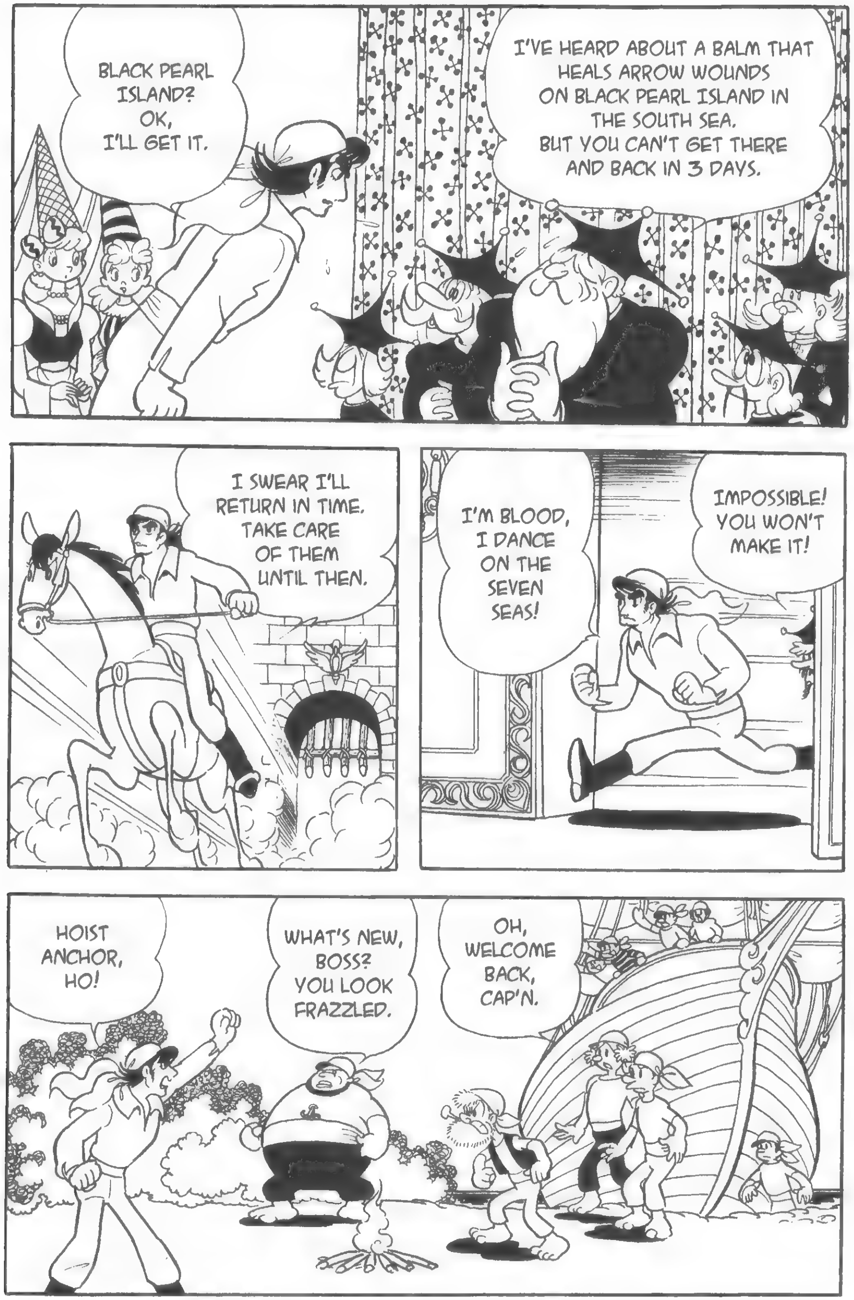

I ADORED PRINCE FRANZ. SO...
I WANT TO BE THERE WHEN HE WEDS. I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER. PLEASE COMMEND ME TO MISS HECATE.
I'M SO GLAD YOU RSVP-ED SO SOON!
THE CREATURES OF MOUNT RESIN WILL THROW A HUGE BANQUET. GREAT KING SATAN WILL BE THERE, TOO.
OH, RIGHT, KING SATAN SAID HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN MEETING YOU. HO HO HO
DON'T FORGET! FRIDAY THE 13TH!

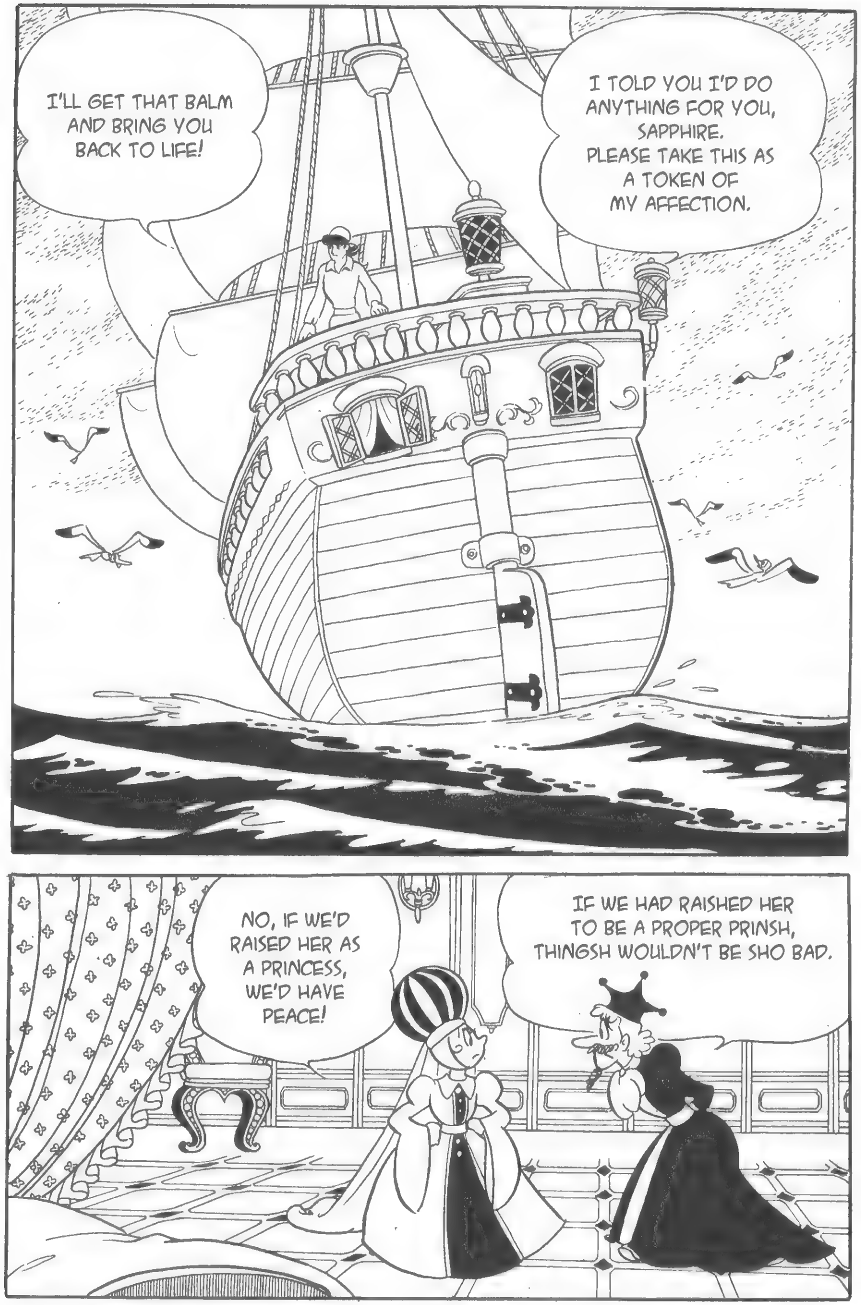

WHEW!
ARE YOU SURE?
I AM.
I WANT TO SEE HIM ONE LAST TIME.
SHE HISSED SOMETHING ABOUT SATAN WANTING TO SEE YOU. THEY'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING TREACHEROUS.
NO, YOU MUSTN'T GO! IT'S A TRAP!
NOW.
SHE'S NEAR THE WINDOW.
AN ARROW RIGHT THROUGH HER HEART!

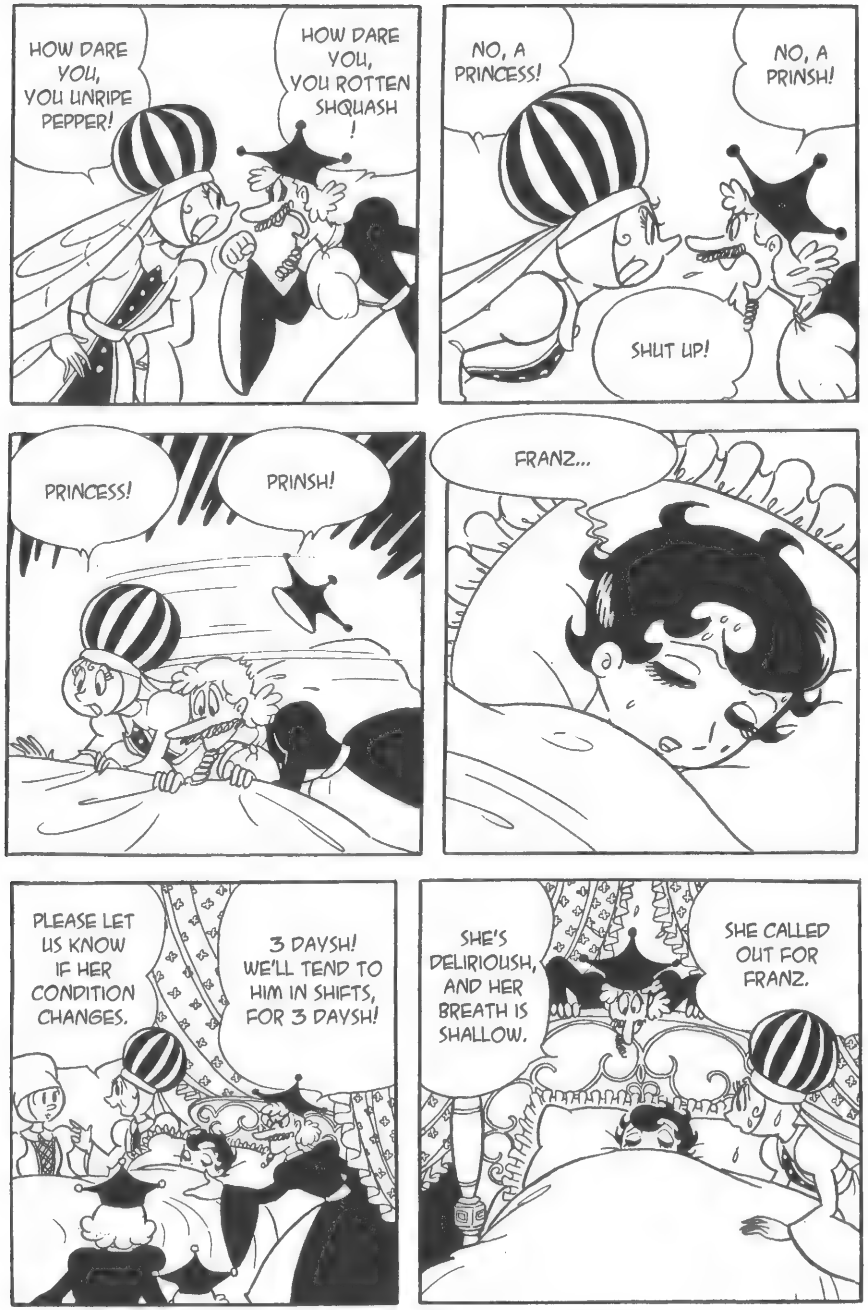

MAY I ENTER?
KNOK
KNOK
BAM
I'VE RUN OUT OF PATIENCE FOR MY FATHER. I'M RETURNING THE CROWN, THE SYMBOL OF KINGSHIP, TO YOU.
YOU ALONE ARE THE TRUE RULER OF SILVERLAND.
PLEASE TAKE IT.
SHOOP
UNH!

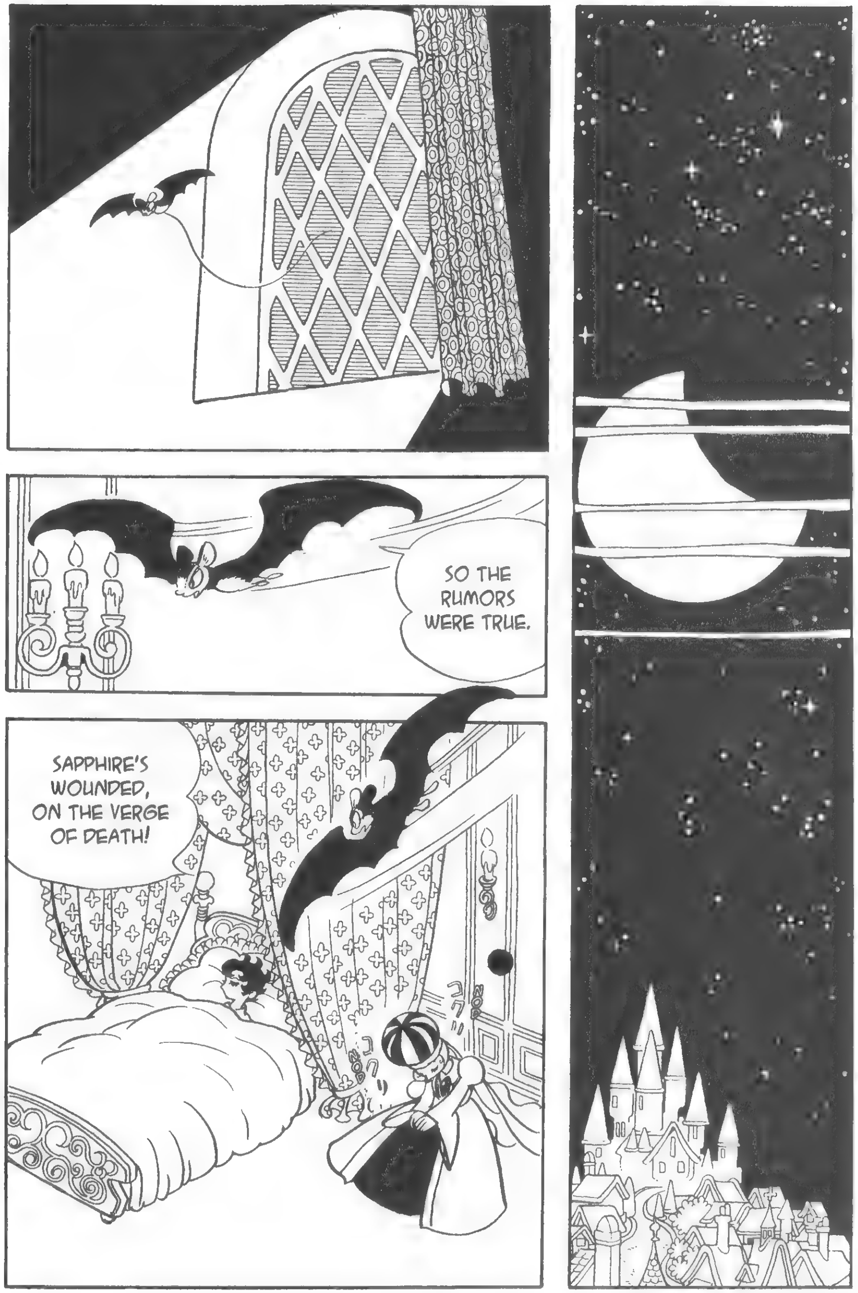

OH NO !!
P-PLASTIC GOT IN THE WAY!
SHOOP
UNH!
BASTARD!
URGH !
WHUMP

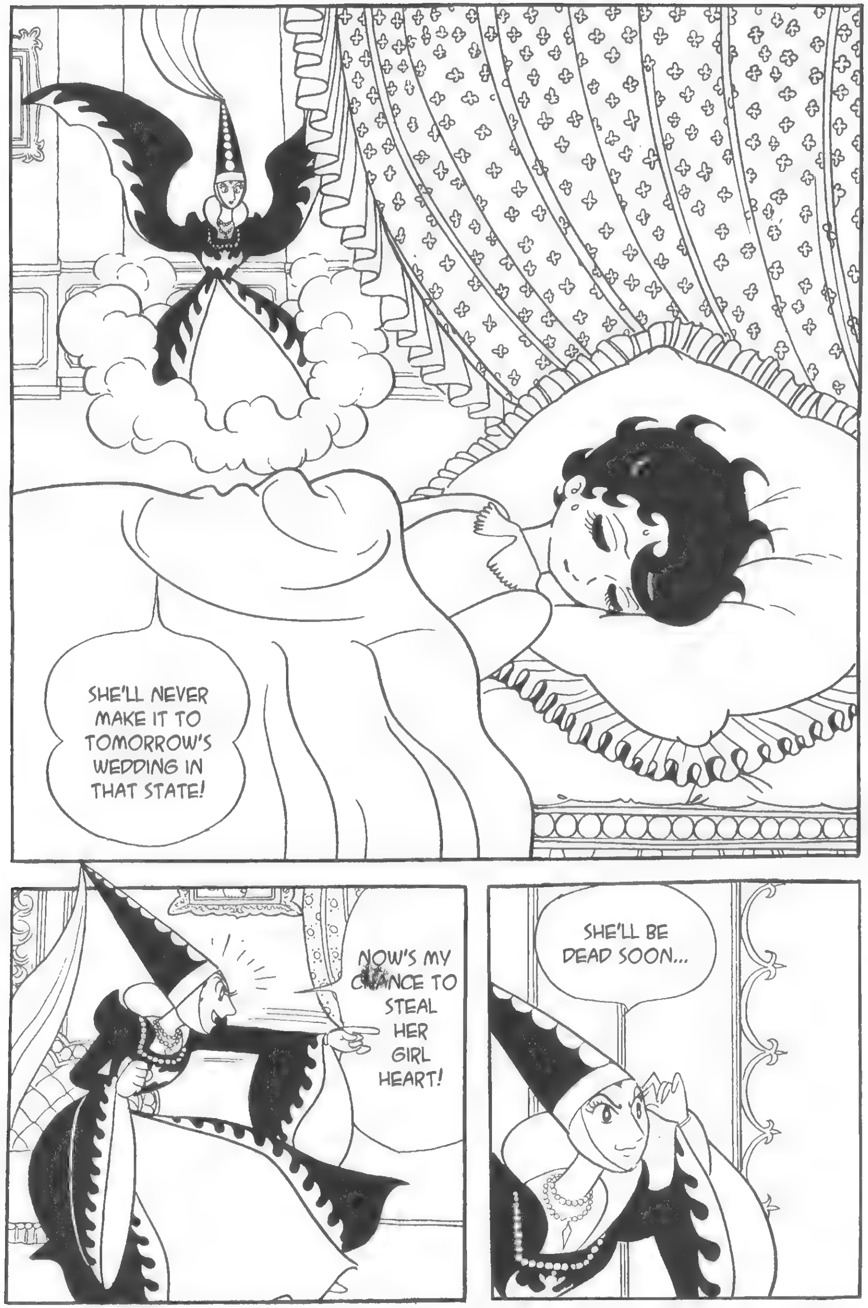

DAMMIT! WHAT'VE I DONE?
I CAN'T STAY HERE AFTER SHOOTING PLASTIC.
GOTTA GET GONE.
I DON'T EVEN CARE ANYMORE.
SAPPHIRE!!
THE WOUND'S NOT DEEP!
WHERE IS THE DOCTOR?!
LUCKILY, BOTH ARROWS MISSED THEIR HEARTS.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL LAST EVEN 3 DAYS IN THIS CONDITION.
HMM...


I'VE HEARD ABOUT A BALM THAT HEALS ARROW WOUNDS ON BLACK PEARL ISLAND IN THE SOUTH SEA. BUT YOU CAN'T GET THERE AND BACK IN 3 DAYS.
BLACK PEARL ISLAND? OK, I'LL GET IT.
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU WON'T MAKE IT!
I'M BLOOD, I DANCE ON THE SEVEN SEAS!
I SWEAR I'LL RETURN IN TIME. TAKE CARE OF THEM UNTIL THEN.
OH, WELCOME BACK, CAP'N.
WHAT'S NEW, BOSS? YOU LOOK FRAZZLED.
HOIST ANCHOR, HO!


I TOLD YOU I'D DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, SAPPHIRE. PLEASE TAKE THIS AS A TOKEN OF MY AFFECTION.
I'LL GET THAT BALM AND BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE!
IF WE HAD RAISED HER TO BE A PROPER PRINSH, THINGSH WOULDN'T BE SHO BAD.
NO, IF WE'D RAISED HER AS A PRINCESS, WE'D HAVE PEACE!

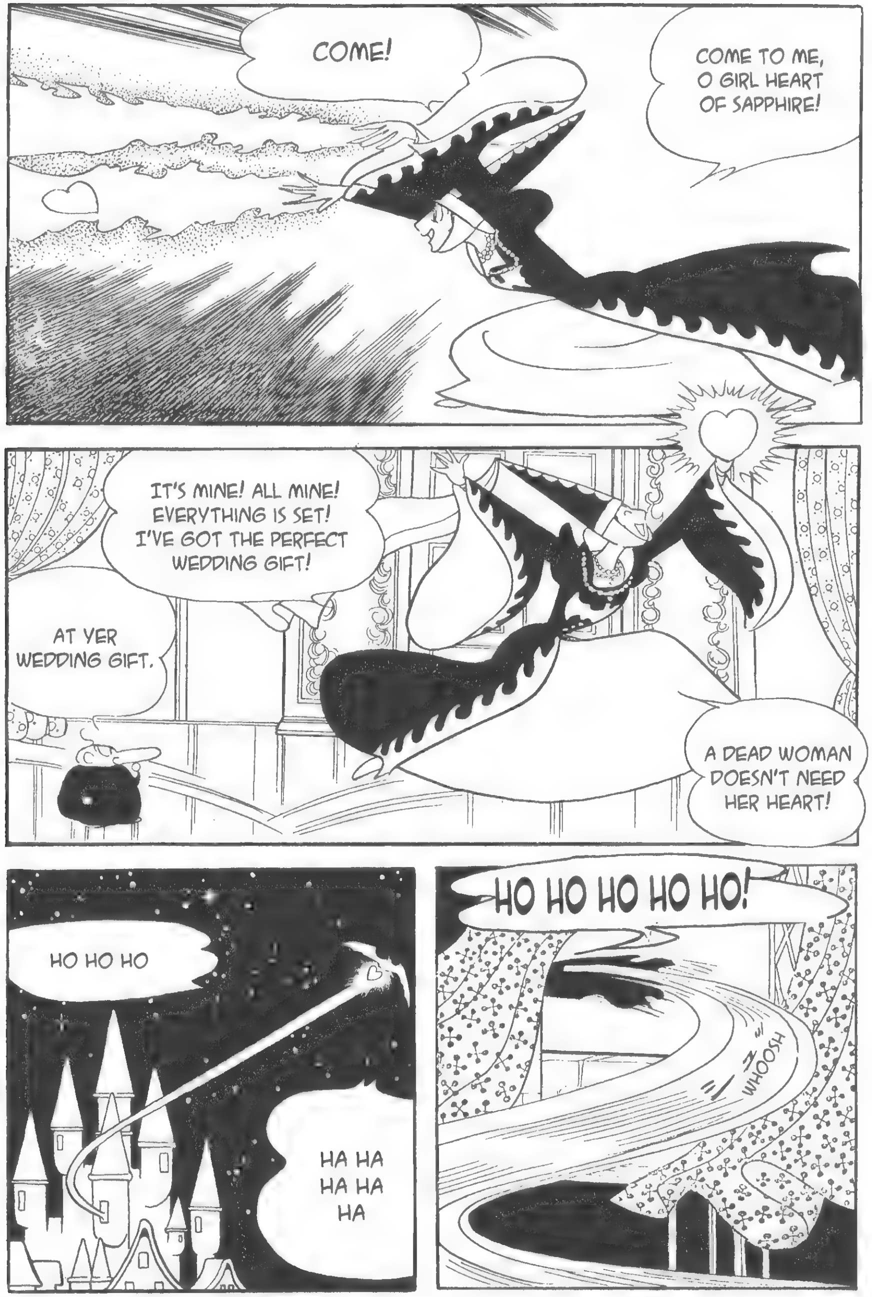

NO, A PRINSH!
NO, A PRINCESS!
SHUT UP!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU ROTTEN SHQUASH!
HOW DARE YOU, YOU UNRIPE PEPPER!
FRANZ...
PRINSH!
PRINCESS!
SHE CALLED OUT FOR FRANZ.
SHE'S DELIRIOUSH, AND HER BREATH IS SHALLOW.
3 DAYSH! WE'LL TEND TO HIM IN SHIFTS, FOR 3 DAYSH!
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF HER CONDITION CHANGES.

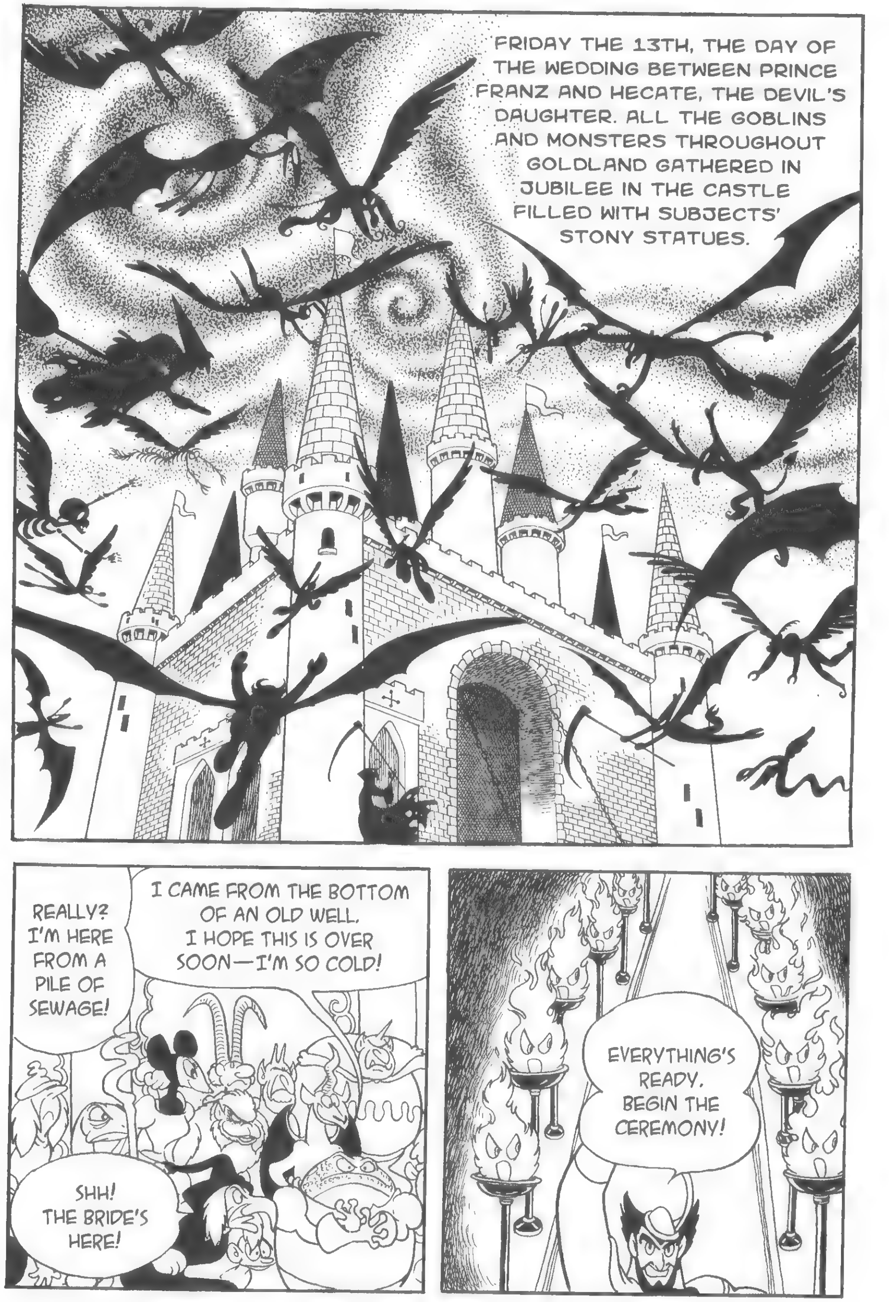

SO THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.
SAPPHIRE'S WOUNDED, ON THE VERGE OF DEATH!

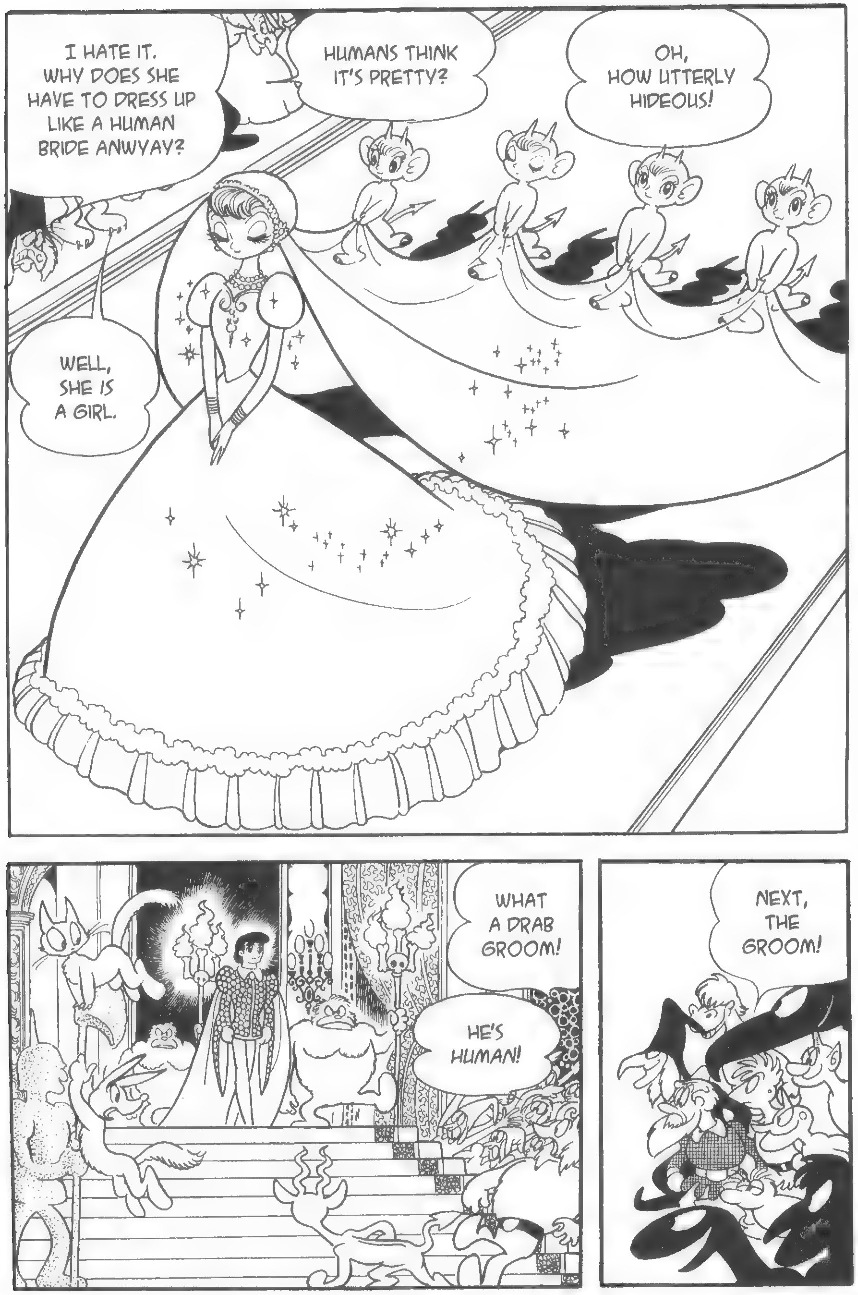

SHE'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO TOMORROW'S WEDDING IN THAT STATE!
SHE'LL BE DEAD SOON...
NOW'S MY CHANCE TO STEAL HER GIRL HEART!

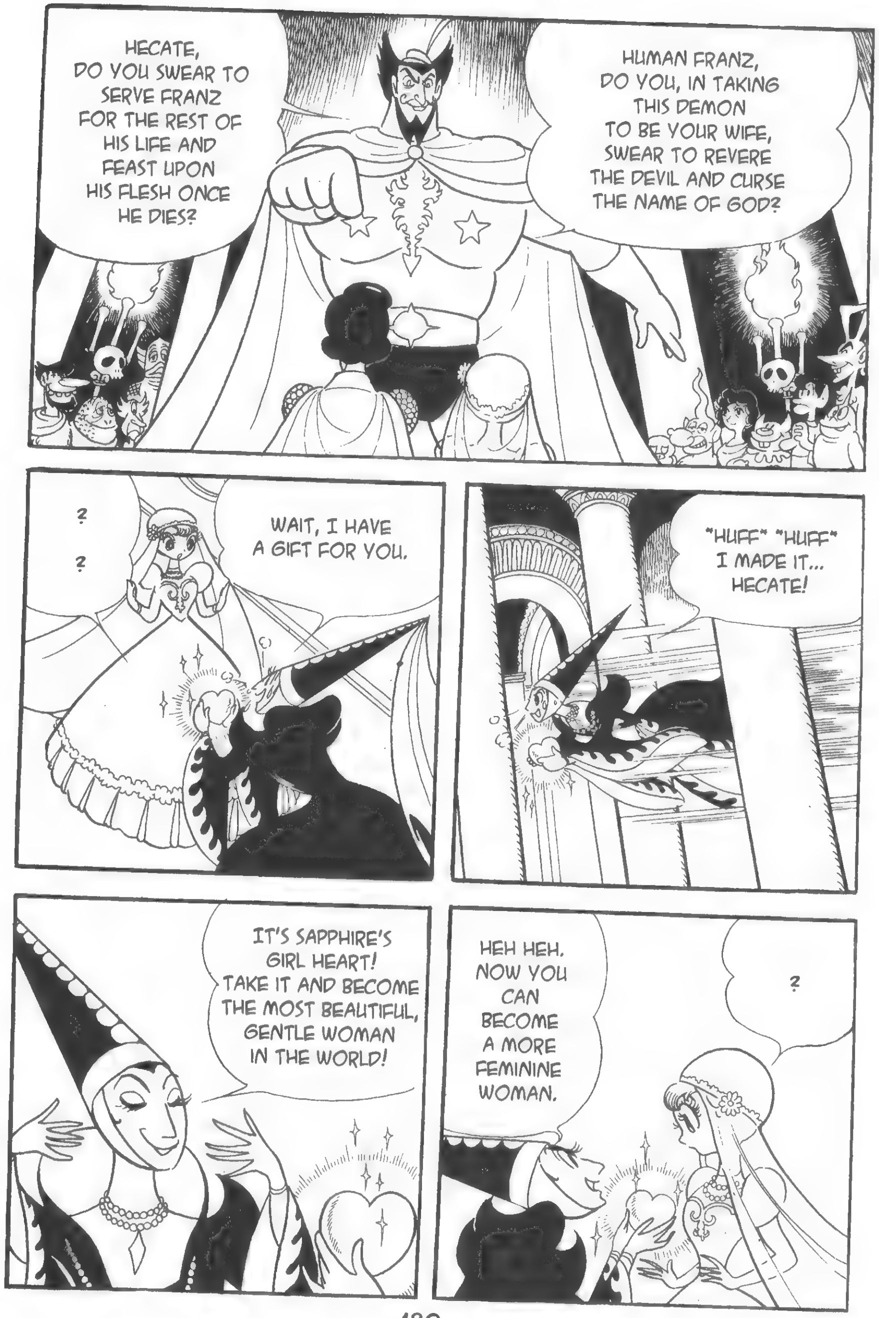
Chapter 22

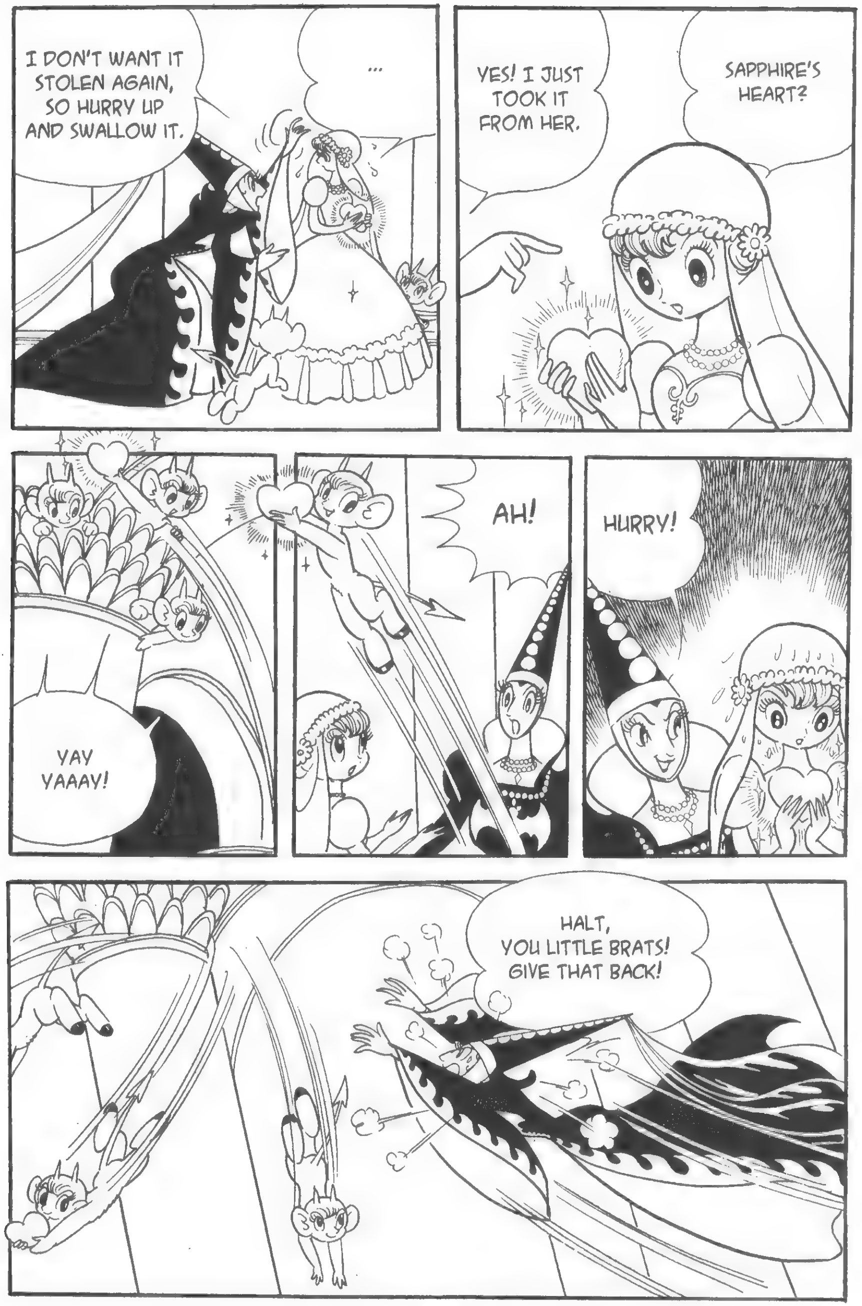
The Devil's Wedding

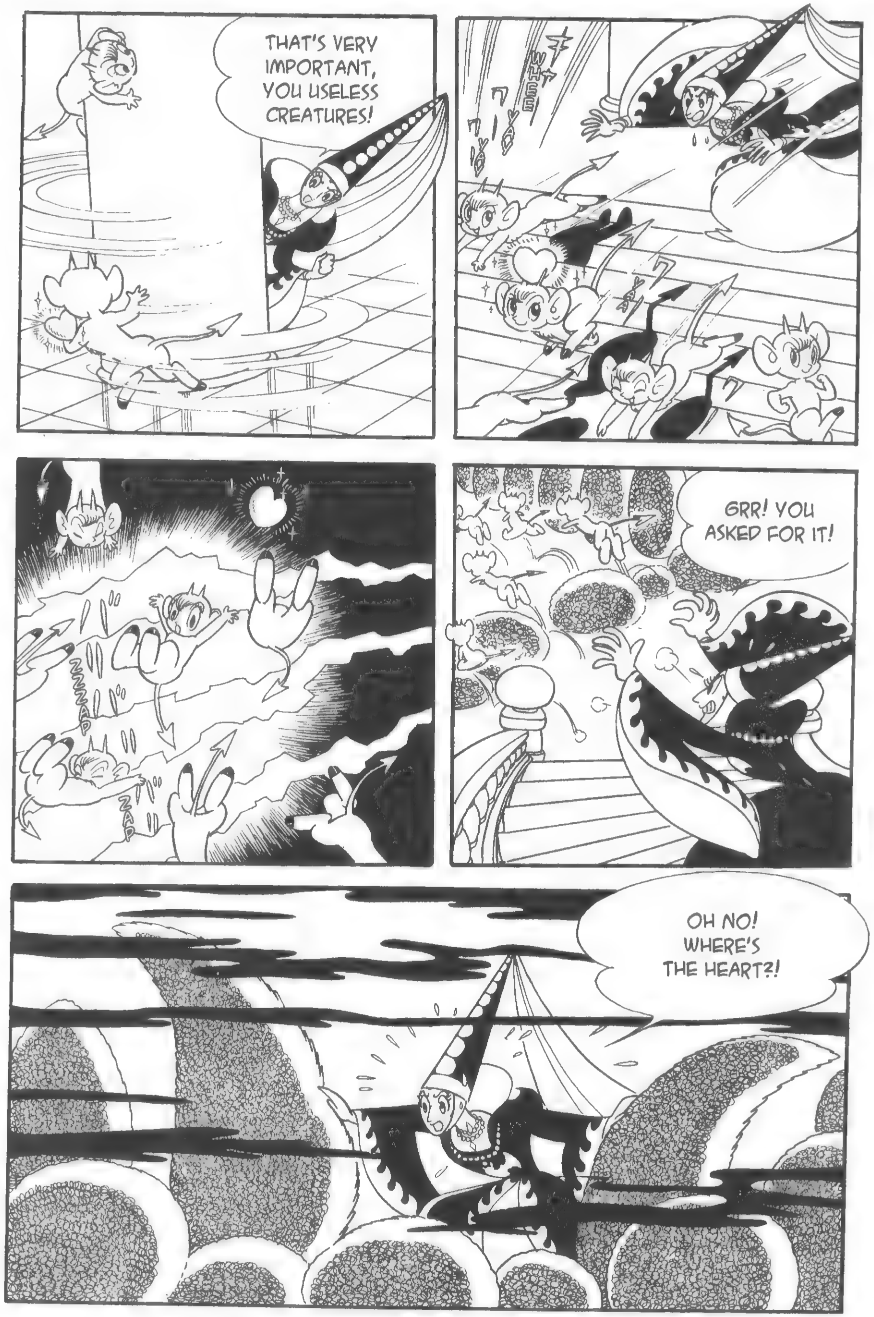

COME!
COME TO ME, O GIRL HEART OF SAPPHIRE!
IT'S MINE! ALL MINE! EVERYTHING IS SET! I'VE GOT THE PERFECT WEDDING GIFT!
AT YER WEDDING GIFT.
A DEAD WOMAN DOESN'T NEED HER HEART!
HO HO HO
HA HA HA HA HA
HO HO HO HO HO!
WHOOSH

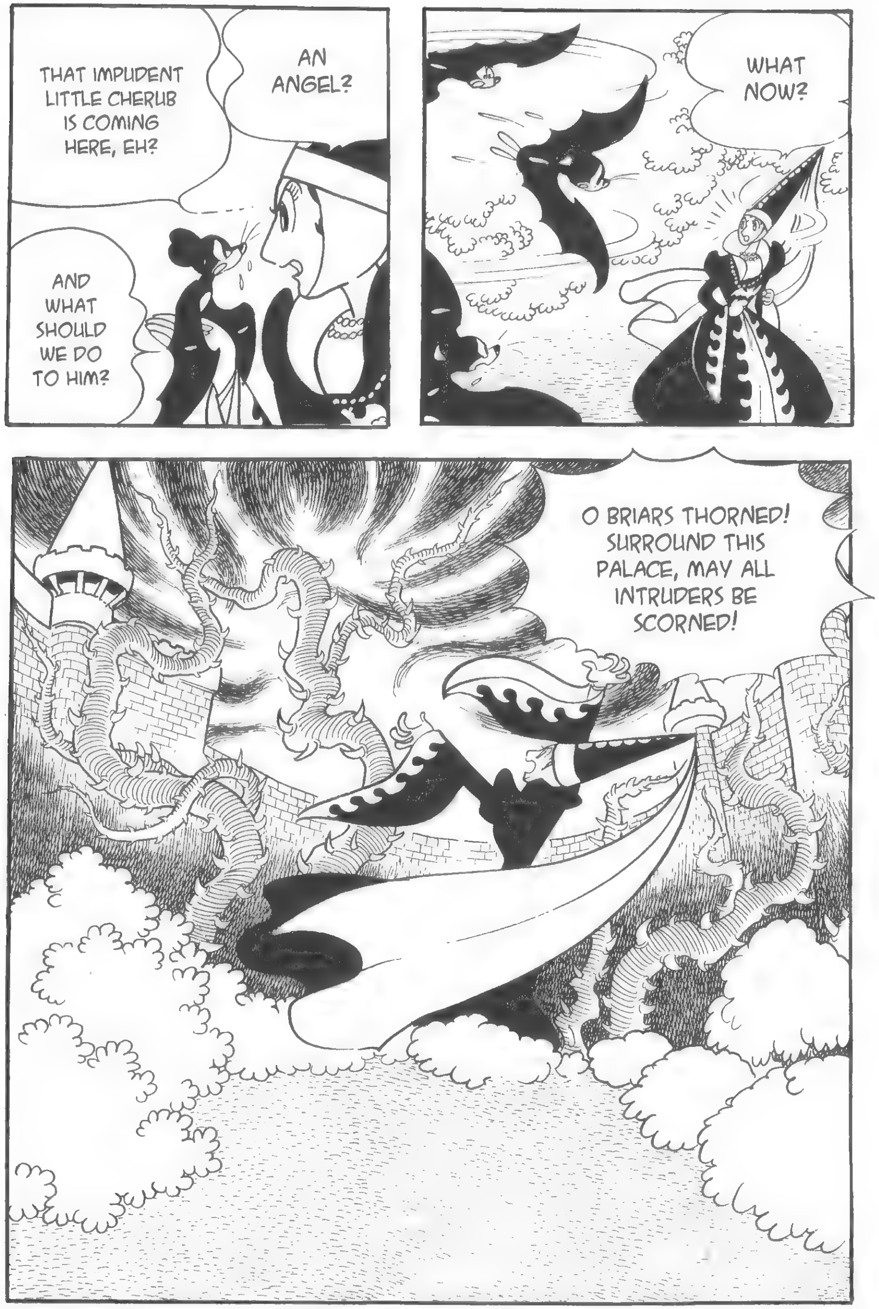

FRIDAY THE 13TH, THE DAY OF THE WEDDING BETWEEN PRINCE FRANZ AND HECATE, THE DEVIL'S DAUGHTER. ALL THE GOBLINS AND MONSTERS THROUGHOUT GOLDLAND GATHERED IN JUBILEE IN THE CASTLE FILLED WITH SUBJECTS' STONY STATUES.
EVERYTHING'S READY. BEGIN THE CEREMONY!
I CAME FROM THE BOTTOM OF AN OLD WELL. I HOPE THIS IS OVER SOON—I'M SO COLD!
REALLY? I'M HERE FROM A PILE OF SEWAGE!
SHH! THE BRIDE'S HERE!

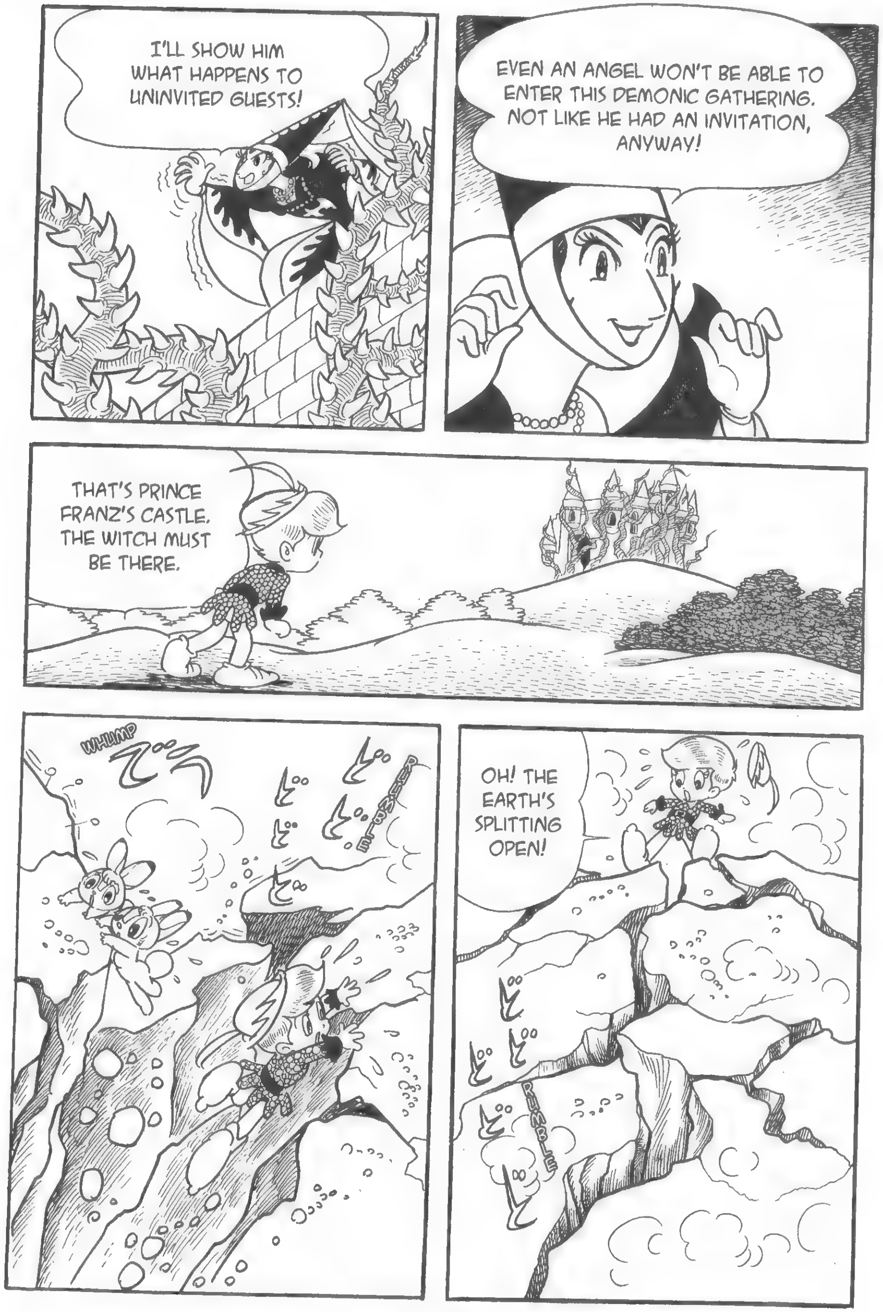

OH, HOW UTTERLY HIDEOUS!
HUMANS THINK IT'S PRETTY?
I HATE IT. WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO DRESS UP LIKE A HUMAN BRIDE ANWYAY?
WELL, SHE IS A GIRL.
NEXT, THE GROOM!
WHAT A DRAB GROOM!
HE'S HUMAN!

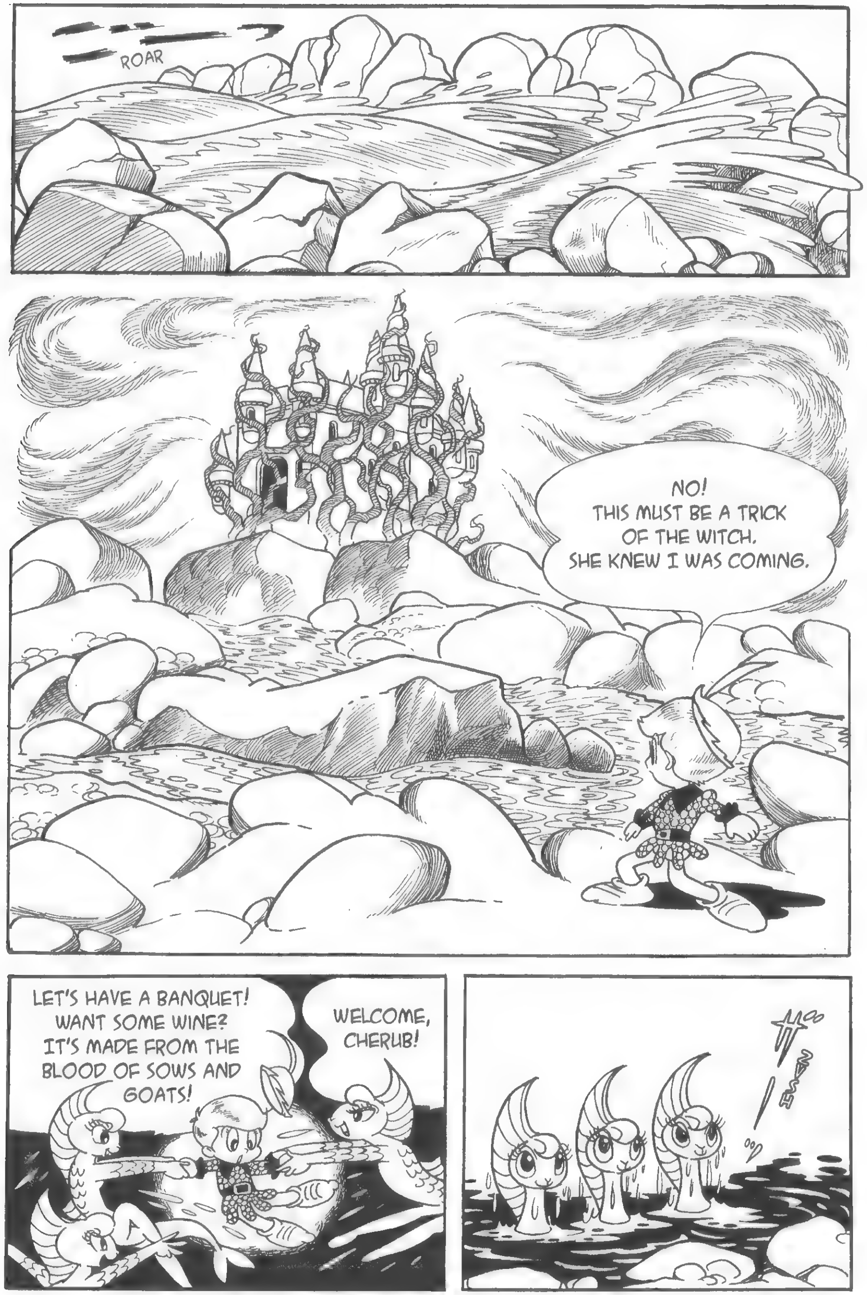

HUMAN FRANZ, DO YOU, IN TAKING THIS DEMON TO BE YOUR WIFE, SWEAR TO REVERE THE DEVIL AND CURSE THE NAME OF GOD?
HECATE, DO YOU SWEAR TO SERVE FRANZ FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE AND FEAST UPON HIS FLESH ONCE HE DIES?
"HUFF" "HUFF" I MADE IT... HECATE!
WAIT, I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
? ?
?
HEH HEH. NOW YOU CAN BECOME A MORE FEMININE WOMAN.
IT'S SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART! TAKE IT AND BECOME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE WOMAN IN THE WORLD!

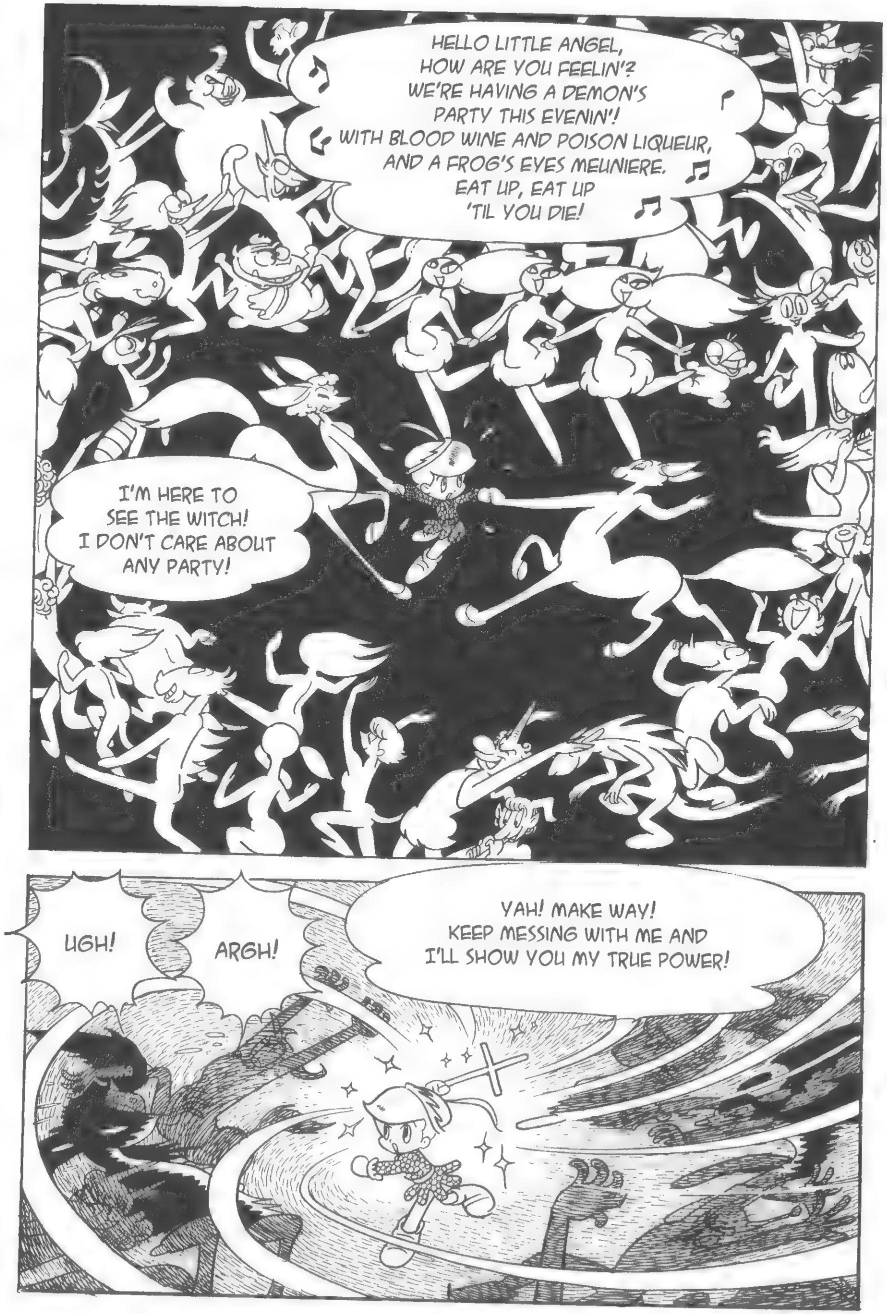

SAPPHIRE'S HEART?
YES! I JUST TOOK IT FROM HER.
...
I DON'T WANT IT STOLEN AGAIN, SO HURRY UP AND SWALLOW IT.
HURRY!
AH!
YAY YAAAY!
HALT, YOU LITTLE BRATS! GIVE THAT BACK!

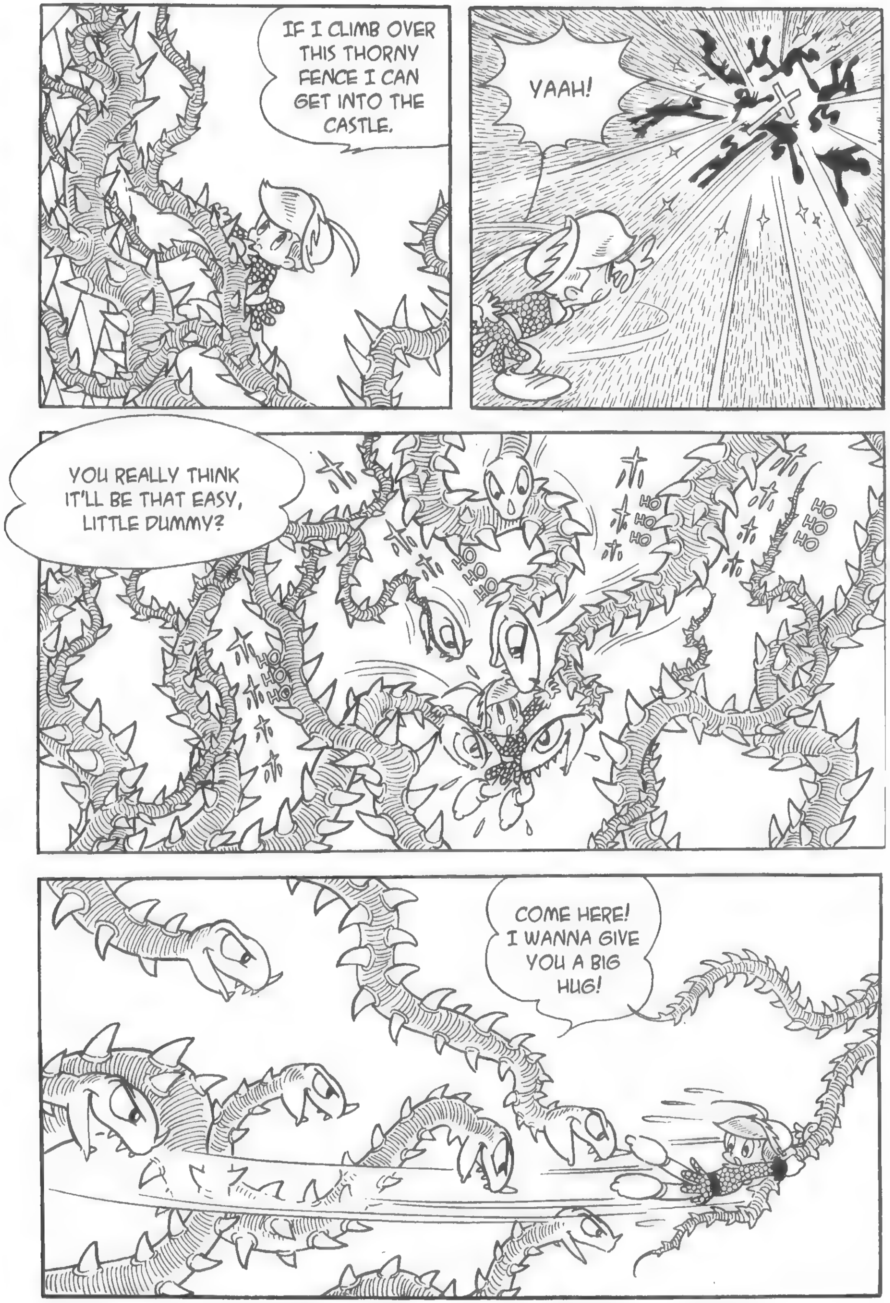

WHEE
THAT'S VERY IMPORTANT, YOU USELESS CREATURES!
GRR! YOU ASKED FOR IT!
ZZZAP
ZAP
OH NO! WHERE'S THE HEART?!

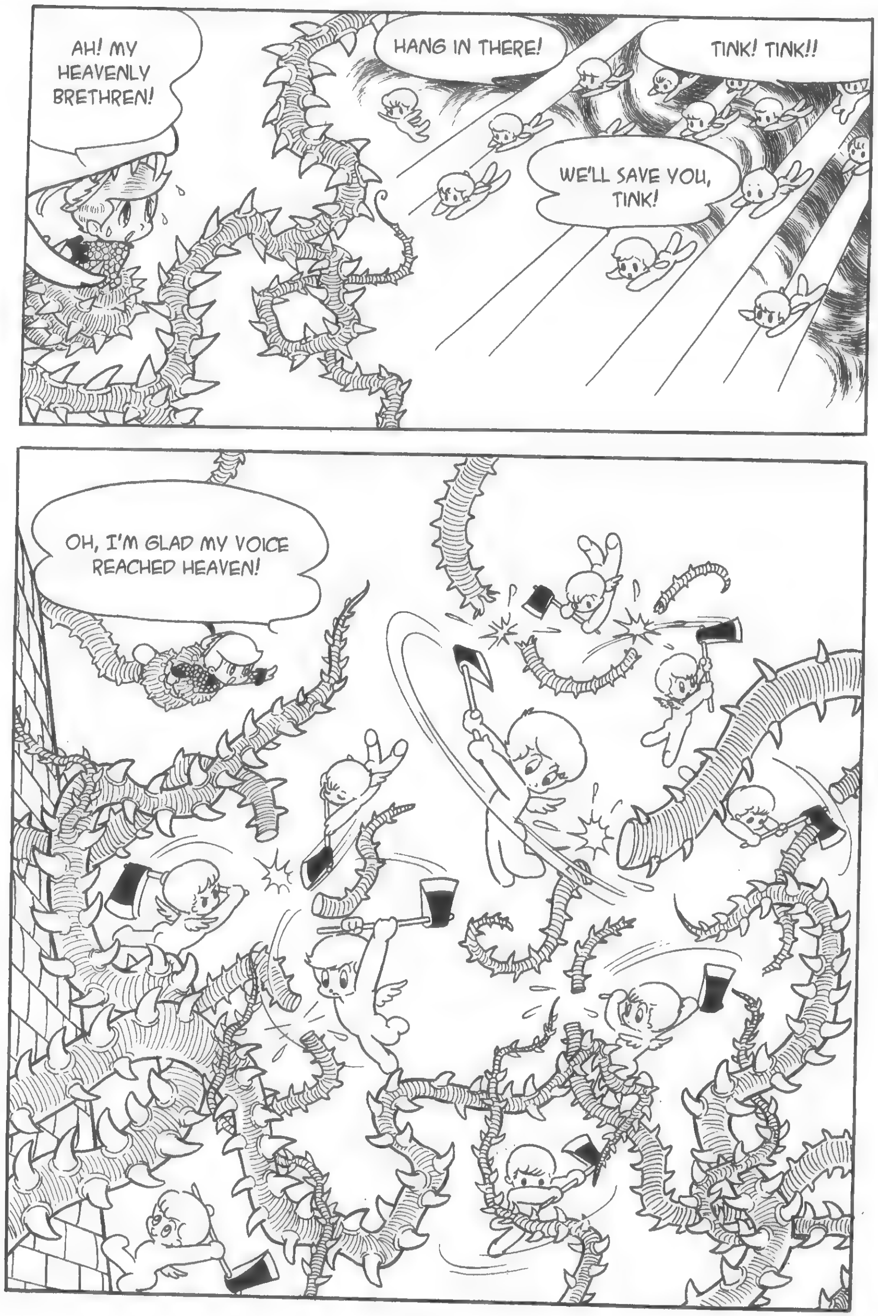

WHAT NOW?
AN ANGEL?
THAT IMPUDENT LITTLE CHERUB IS COMING HERE, EH?
AND WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO HIM?
O BRIARS THORNED! SURROUND THIS PALACE, MAY ALL INTRUDERS BE SCORNED!

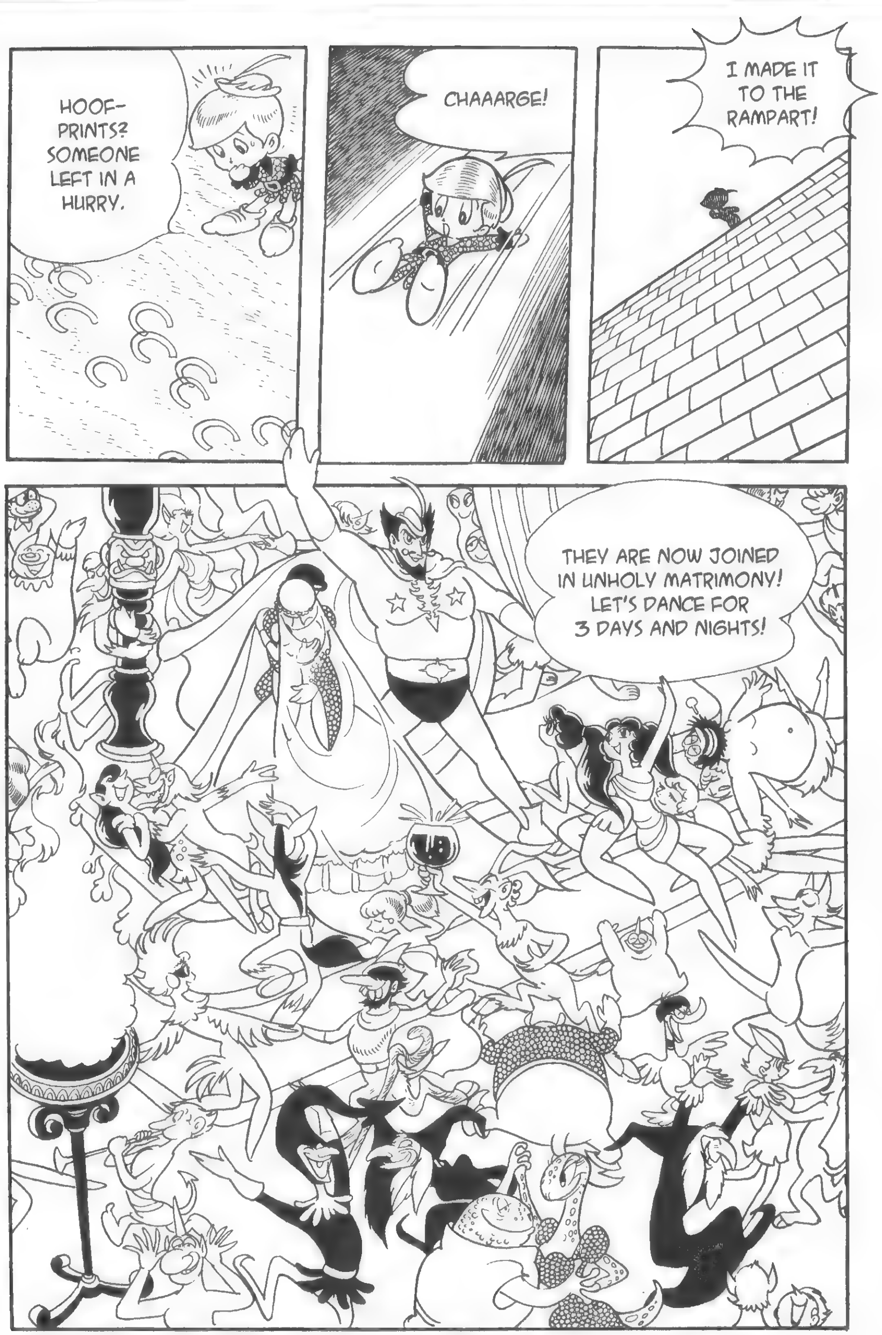

EVEN AN ANGEL WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER THIS DEMONIC GATHERING. NOT LIKE HE HAD AN INVITATION, ANYWAY!
I'LL SHOW HIM WHAT HAPPENS TO UNINVITED GUESTS!
THAT'S PRINCE FRANZ'S CASTLE. THE WITCH MUST BE THERE.
OH! THE EARTH'S SPLITTING OPEN!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHUMP

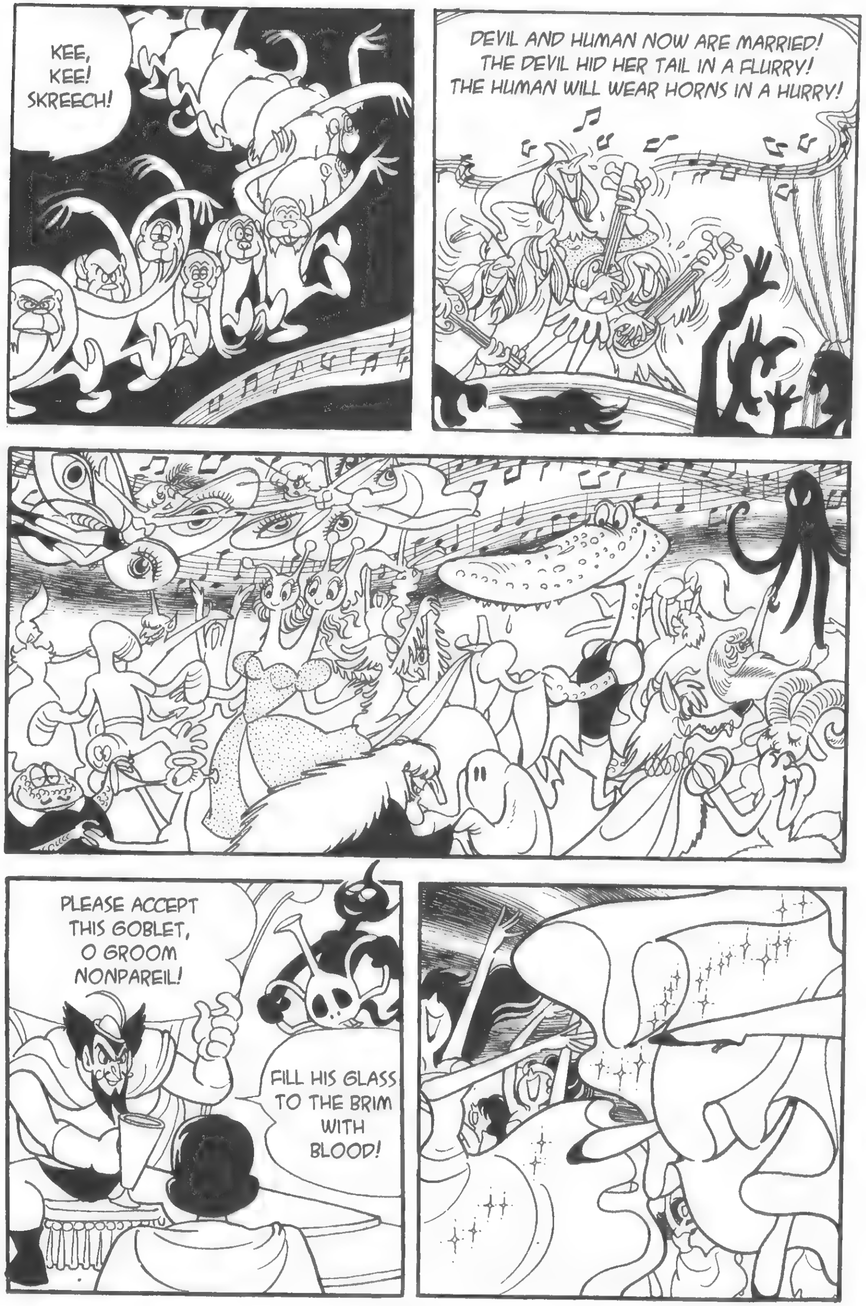

ROAR
NO! THIS MUST BE A TRICK OF THE WITCH. SHE KNEW I WAS COMING.
WELCOME, CHERUB!
LET'S HAVE A BANQUET! WANT SOME WINE? IT'S MADE FROM THE BLOOD OF SOWS AND GOATS!

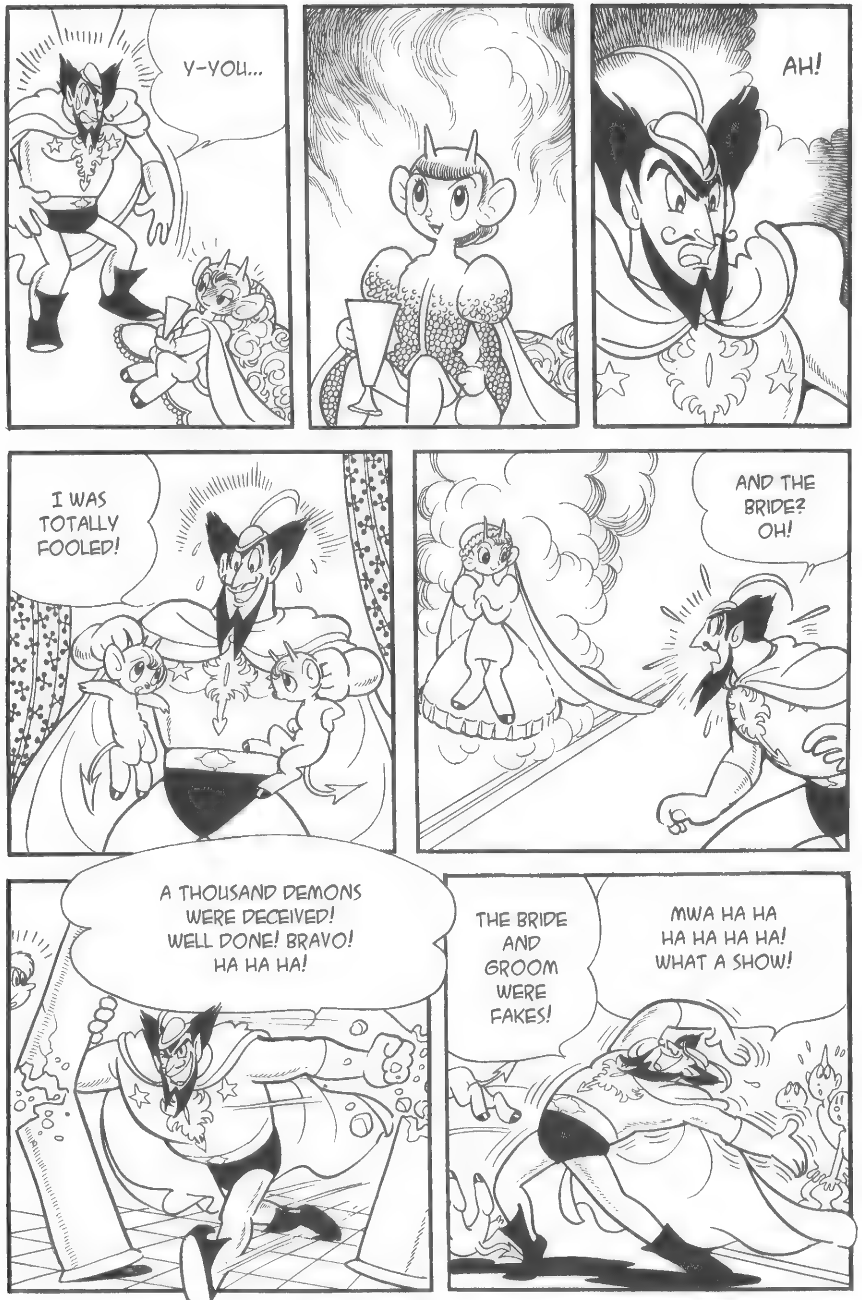

HELLO LITTLE ANGEL, HOW ARE YOU FEELIN'? WE'RE HAVING A DEMON'S PARTY THIS EVENIN'! WITH BLOOD WINE AND POISON LIQUEUR, AND A FROG'S EYES MEUNIERE. EAT UP, EAT UP 'TIL YOU DIE!
I'M HERE TO SEE THE WITCH! I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY PARTY!
UGH!
ARGH!
YAH! MAKE WAY! KEEP MESSING WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU MY TRUE POWER!

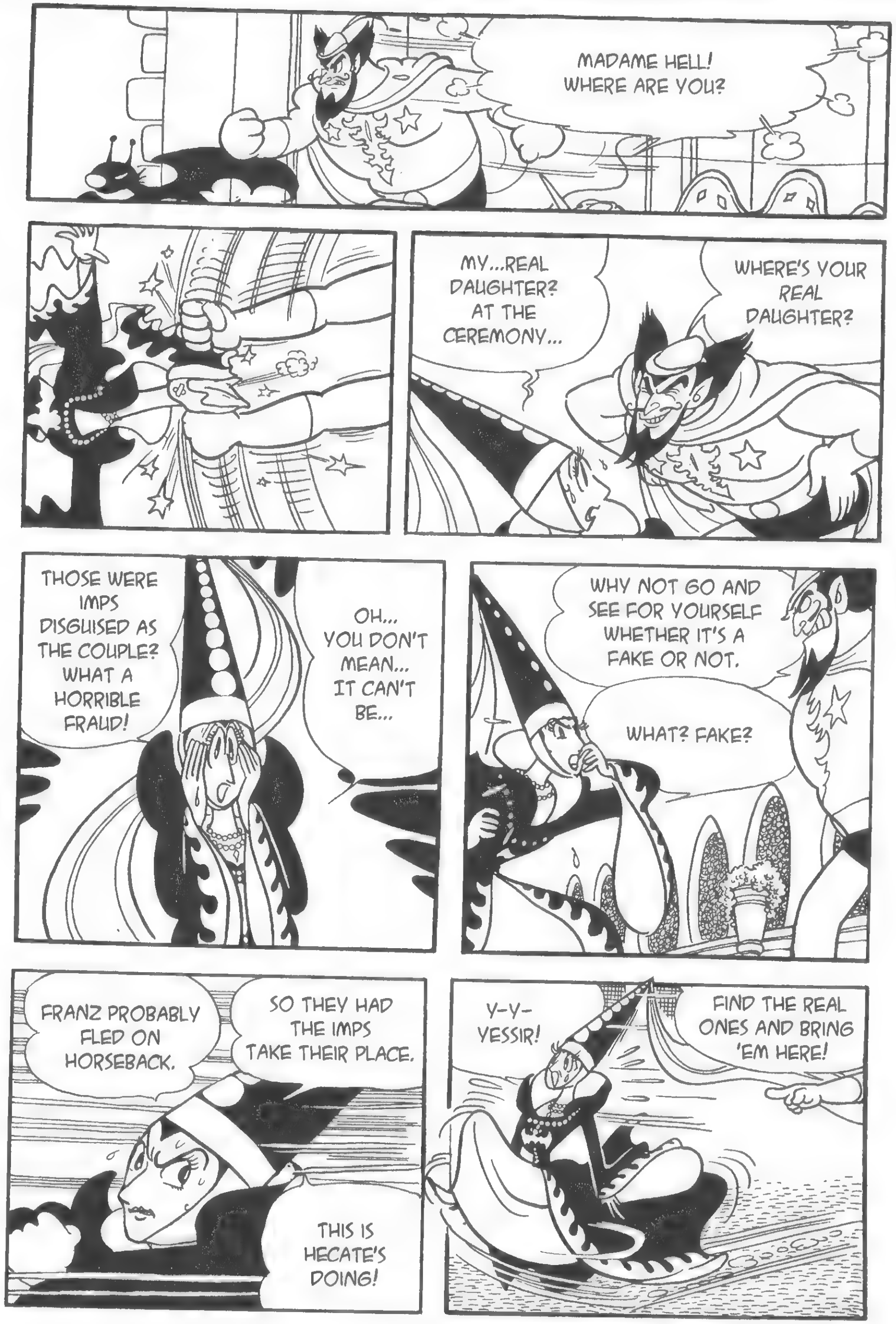

IF I CLIMB OVER THIS THORNY FENCE I CAN GET INTO THE CASTLE.
YAAH!
YOU REALLY THINK IT'LL BE THAT EASY, LITTLE DUMMY?
COME HERE! I WANNA GIVE YOU A BIG HUG!

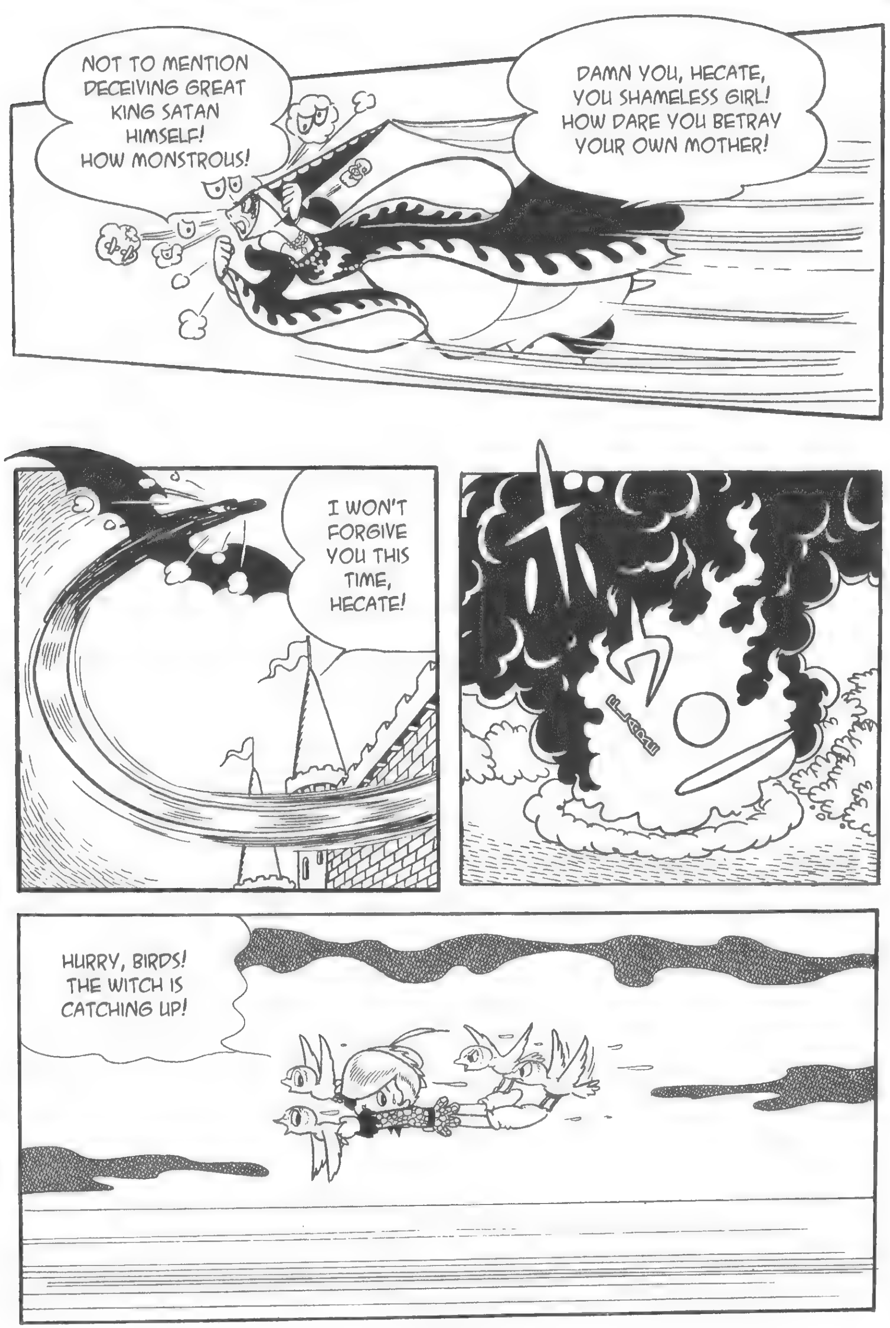

AH! MY HEAVENLY BRETHREN!
HANG IN THERE!
TINK! TINK!!
WE'LL SAVE YOU, TINK!
OH, I'M GLAD MY VOICE REACHED HEAVEN!

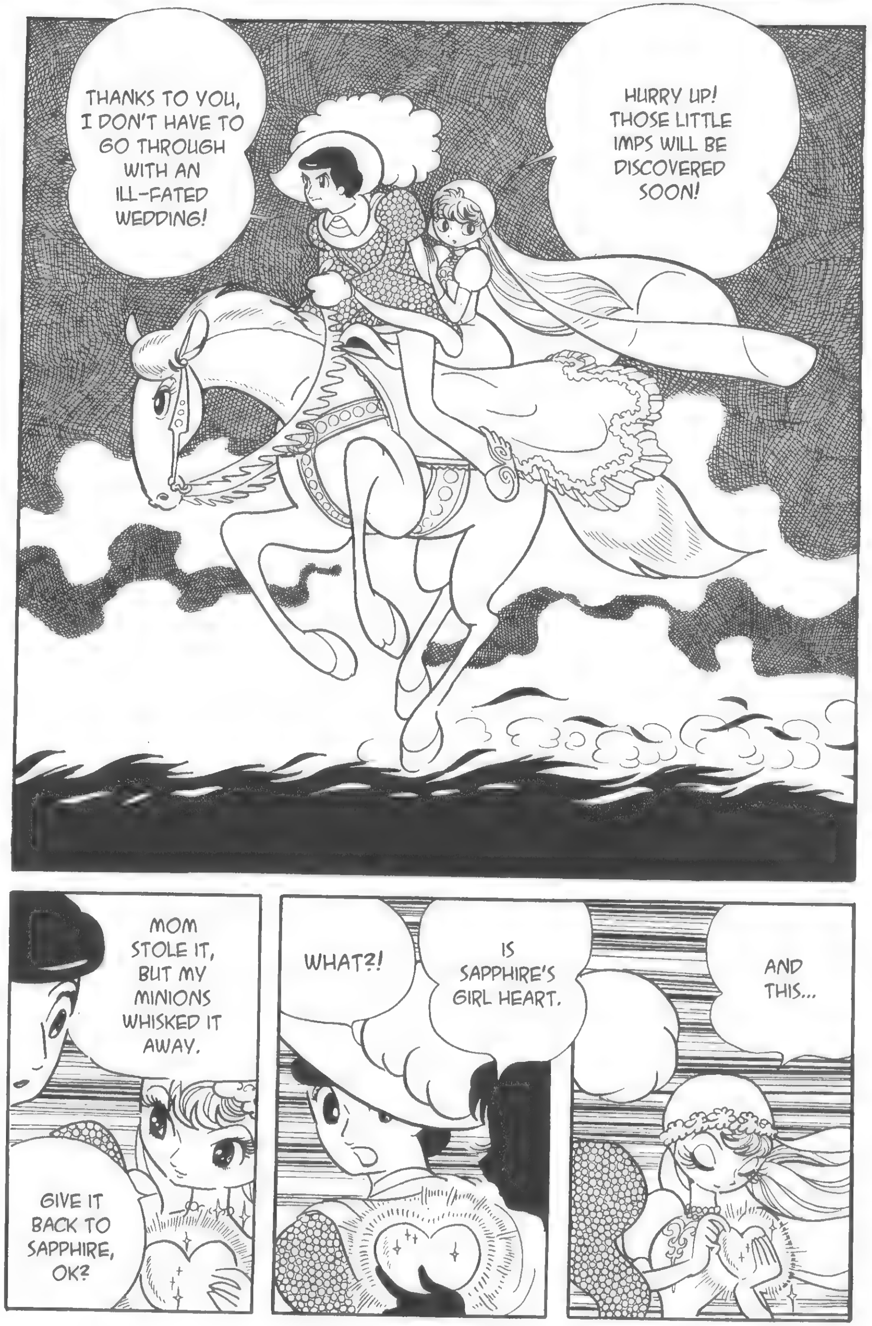

HOOF-PRINTS? SOMEONE LEFT IN A HURRY.
CHAAARGE!
I MADE IT TO THE RAMPART!
THEY ARE NOW JOINED IN UNHOLY MATRIMONY! LET'S DANCE FOR 3 DAYS AND NIGHTS!

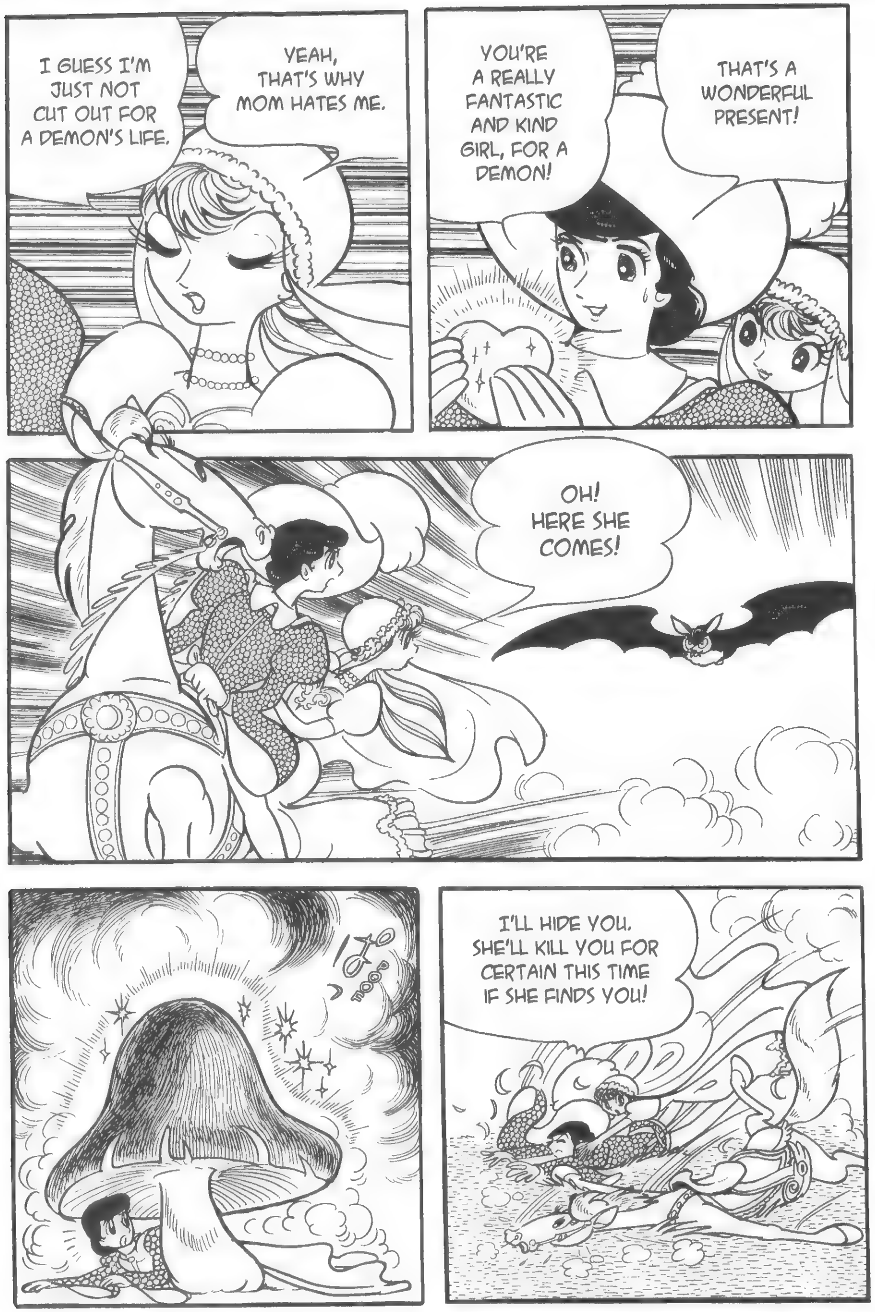

DEVIL AND HUMAN NOW ARE MARRIED! THE DEVIL HID HER TAIL IN A FLURRY! THE HUMAN WILL WEAR HORNS IN A HURRY!
KEE, KEE! SKREECH!
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GOBLET, O GROOM NONPAREIL!
FILL HIS GLASS TO THE BRIM WITH BLOOD!

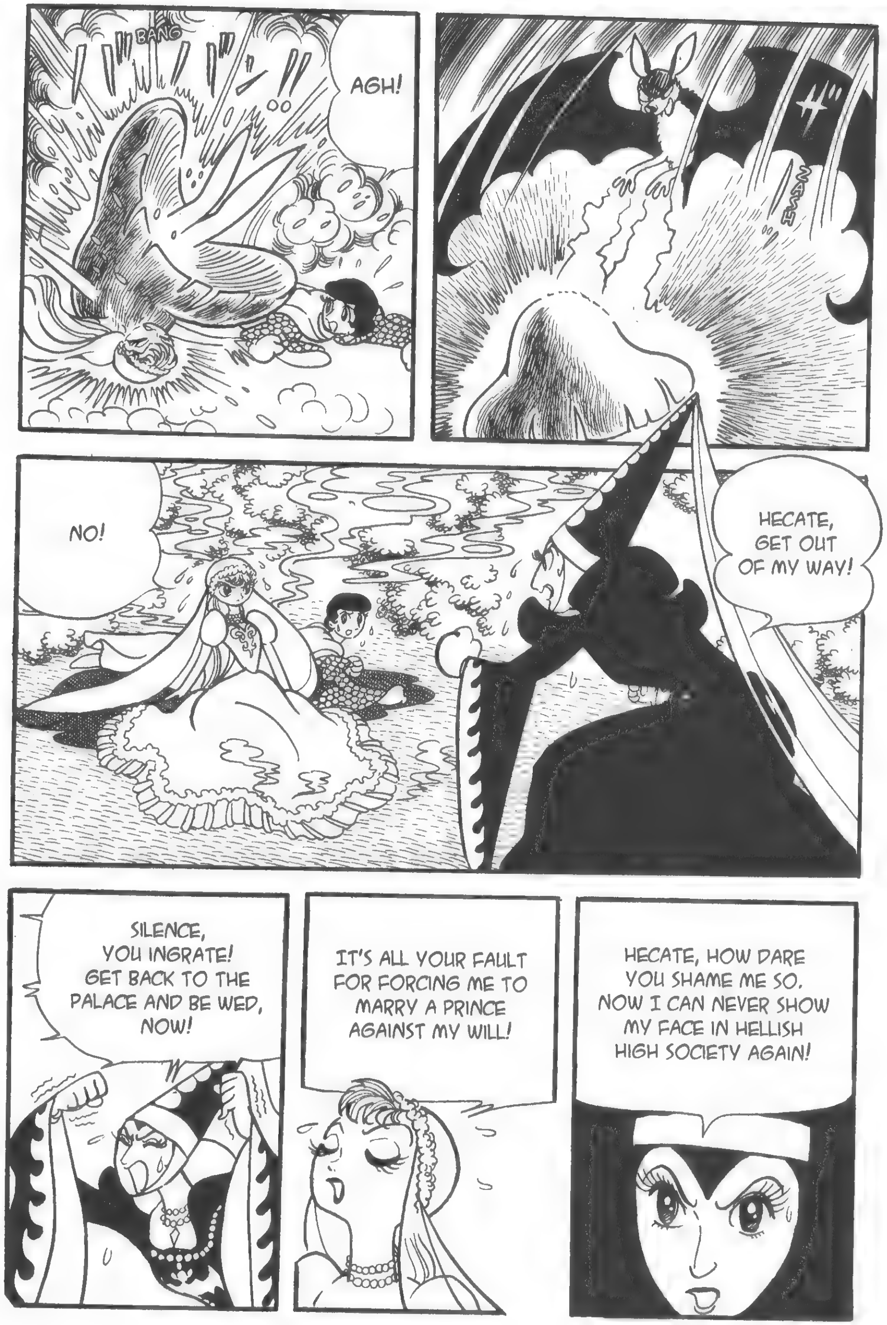

AH!
Y-YOU...
AND THE BRIDE? OH!
I WAS TOTALLY FOOLED!
MWA HA HA HA HA HA HA! WHAT A SHOW!
THE BRIDE AND GROOM WERE FAKES!
A THOUSAND DEMONS WERE DECEIVED! WELL DONE! BRAVO! HA HA HA!

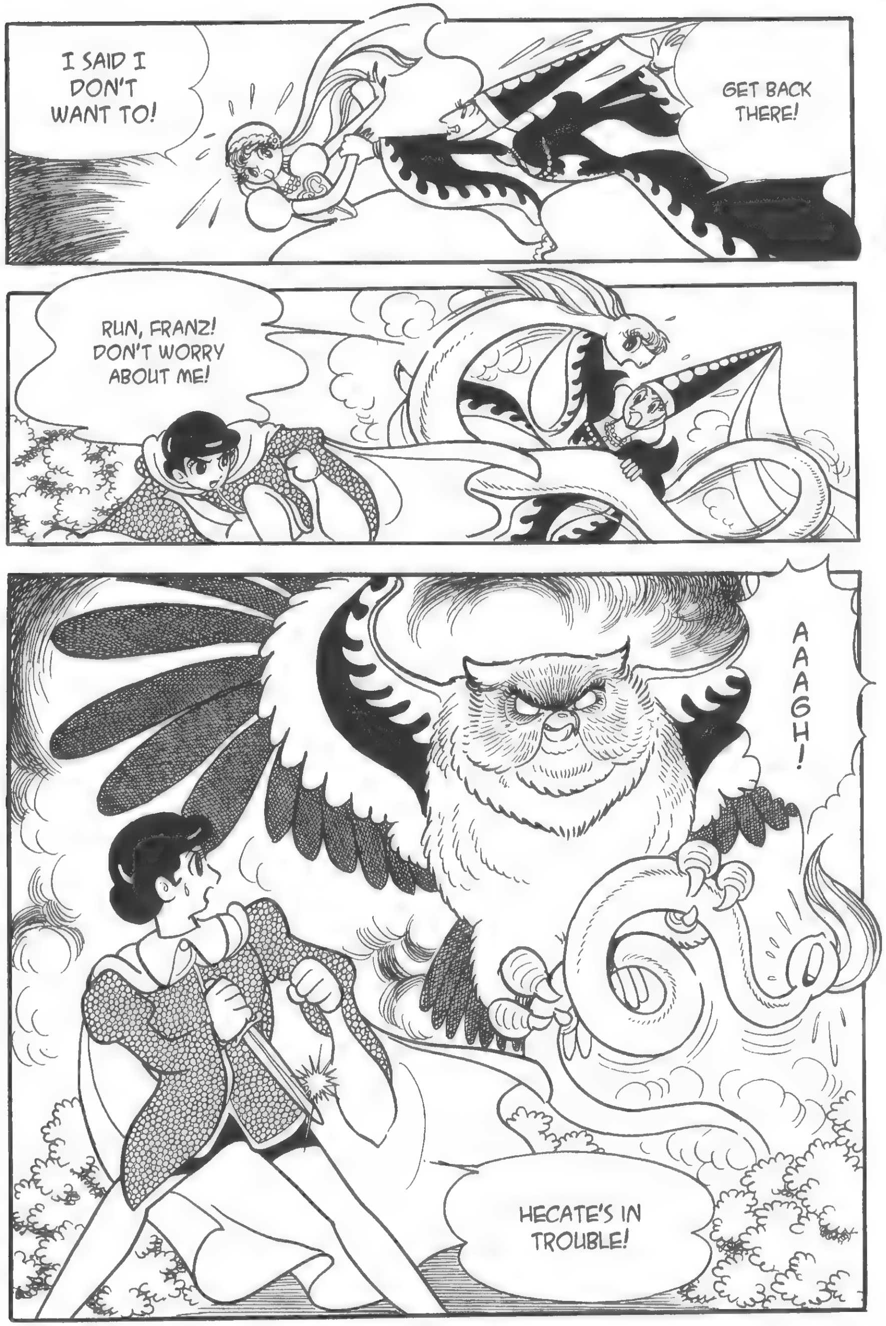

MADAME HELL! WHERE ARE YOU?
WHERE'S YOUR REAL DAUGHTER?
MY...REAL DAUGHTER? AT THE CEREMONY...
WHY NOT GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER IT'S A FAKE OR NOT.
WHAT? FAKE?
OH... YOU DON'T MEAN... IT CAN'T BE...
THOSE WERE IMPS DISGUISED AS THE COUPLE? WHAT A HORRIBLE FRAUD!
FIND THE REAL ONES AND BRING 'EM HERE!
Y-Y-YESSIR!
SO THEY HAD THE IMPS TAKE THEIR PLACE.
FRANZ PROBABLY FLED ON HORSEBACK.
THIS IS HECATE'S DOING!

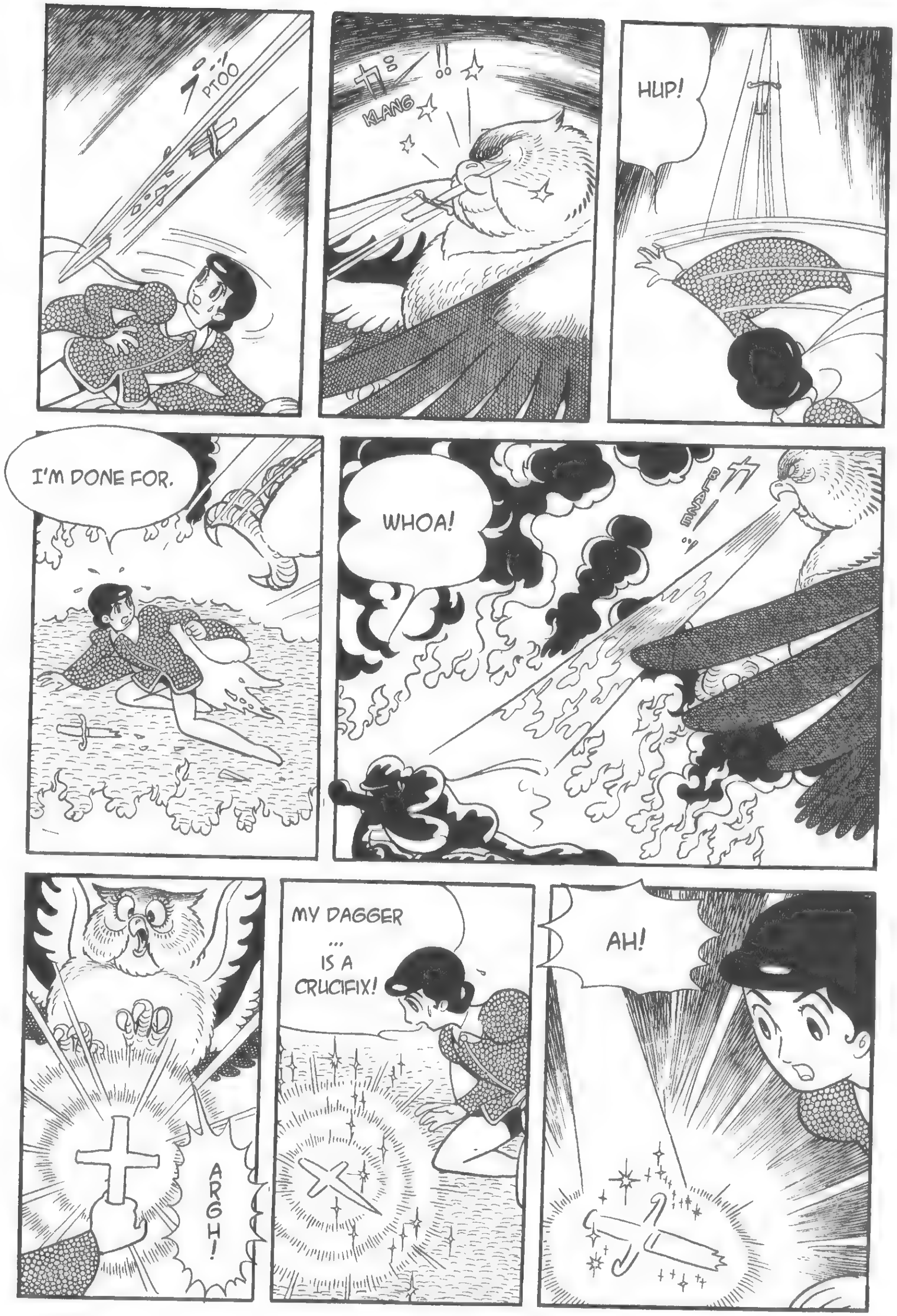

DAMN YOU, HECATE, YOU SHAMELESS GIRL! HOW DARE YOU BETRAY YOUR OWN MOTHER!
NOT TO MENTION DECEIVING GREAT KING SATAN HIMSELF! HOW MONSTROUS!
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU THIS TIME, HECATE!
HURRY, BIRDS! THE WITCH IS CATCHING UP!

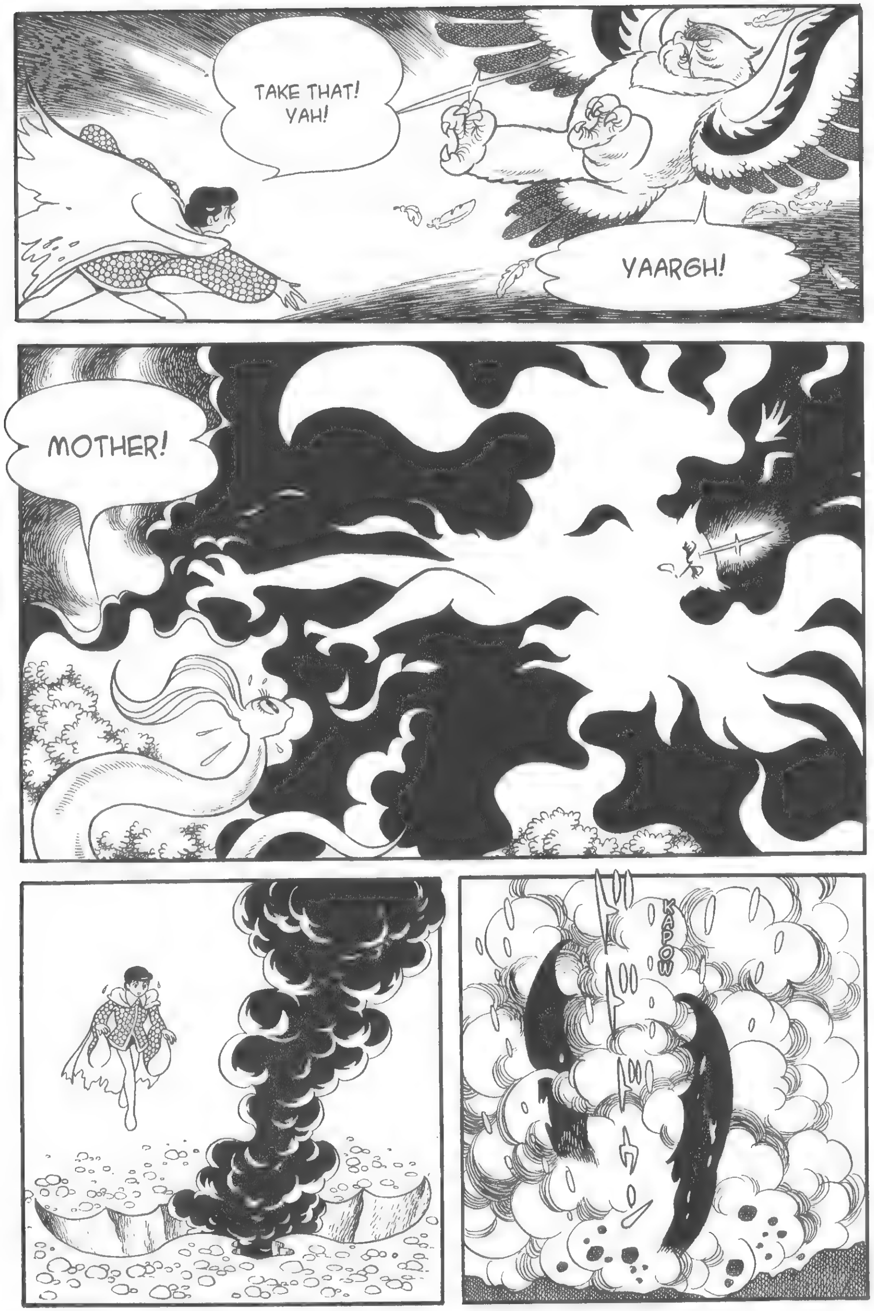

HURRY UP! THOSE LITTLE IMPS WILL BE DISCOVERED SOON!
THANKS TO YOU, I DON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH AN ILL-FATED WEDDING!
AND THIS...
IS SAPPHIRE'S GIRL HEART.
WHAT?!
MOM STOLE IT, BUT MY MINIONS WHISKED IT AWAY.
GIVE IT BACK TO SAPPHIRE, OK?

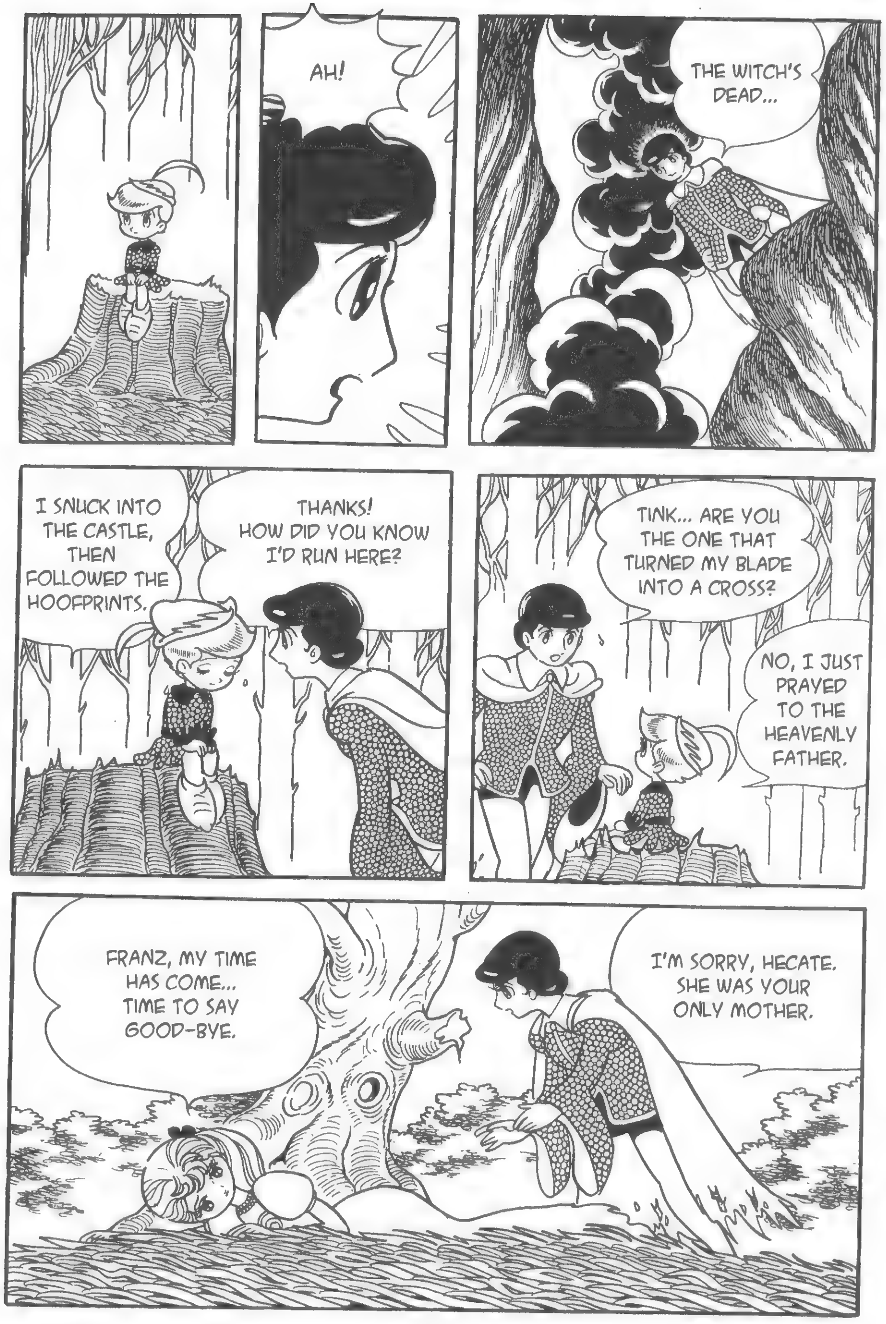

THAT'S A WONDERFUL PRESENT!
YOU'RE A REALLY FANTASTIC AND KIND GIRL, FOR A DEMON!
YEAH, THAT'S WHY MOM HATES ME.
I GUESS I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR A DEMON'S LIFE.
OH! HERE SHE COMES!
I'LL HIDE YOU. SHE'LL KILL YOU FOR CERTAIN THIS TIME IF SHE FINDS YOU!
POOF

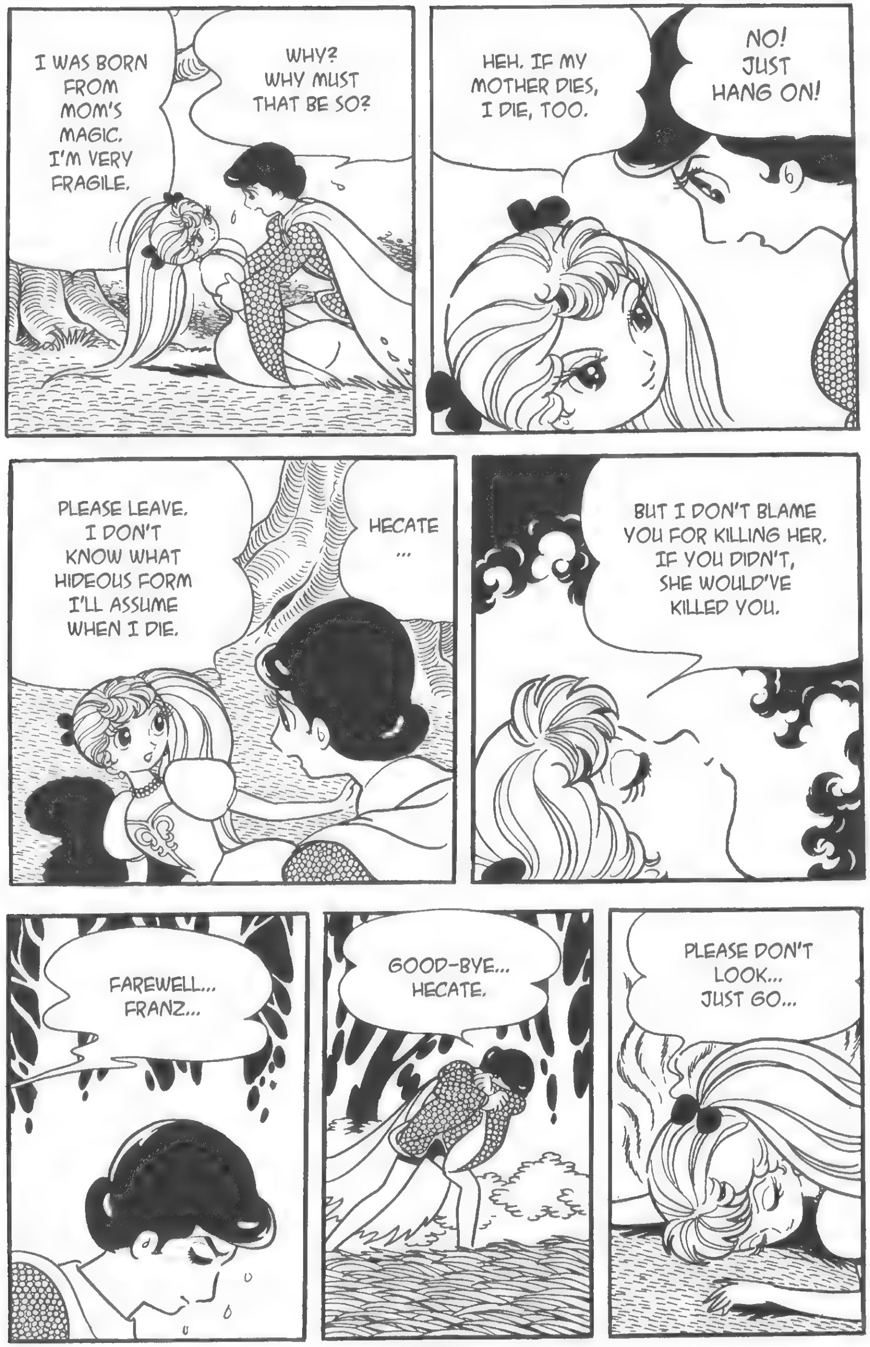

BANG
AGH!
HECATE, GET OUT OF MY WAY!
NO!
HECATE, HOW DARE YOU SHAME ME SO. NOW I CAN NEVER SHOW MY FACE IN HELLISH HIGH SOCIETY AGAIN!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT FOR FORCING ME TO MARRY A PRINCE AGAINST MY WILL!
SILENCE, YOU INGRATE! GET BACK TO THE PALACE AND BE WED, NOW!

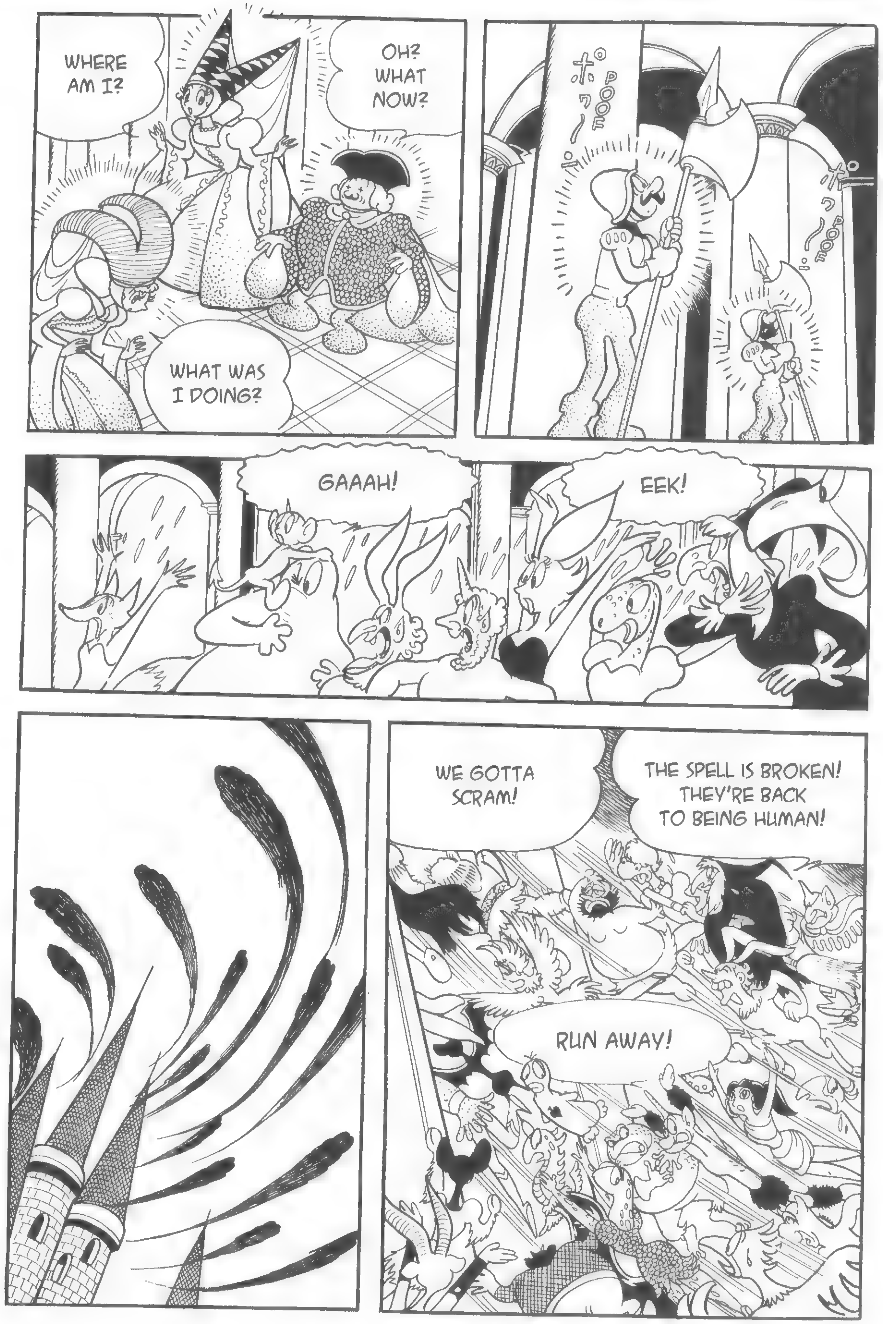

GET BACK THERE!
I SAID I DON'T WANT TO!
RUN, FRANZ! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
AAAGH!
HECATE'S IN TROUBLE!

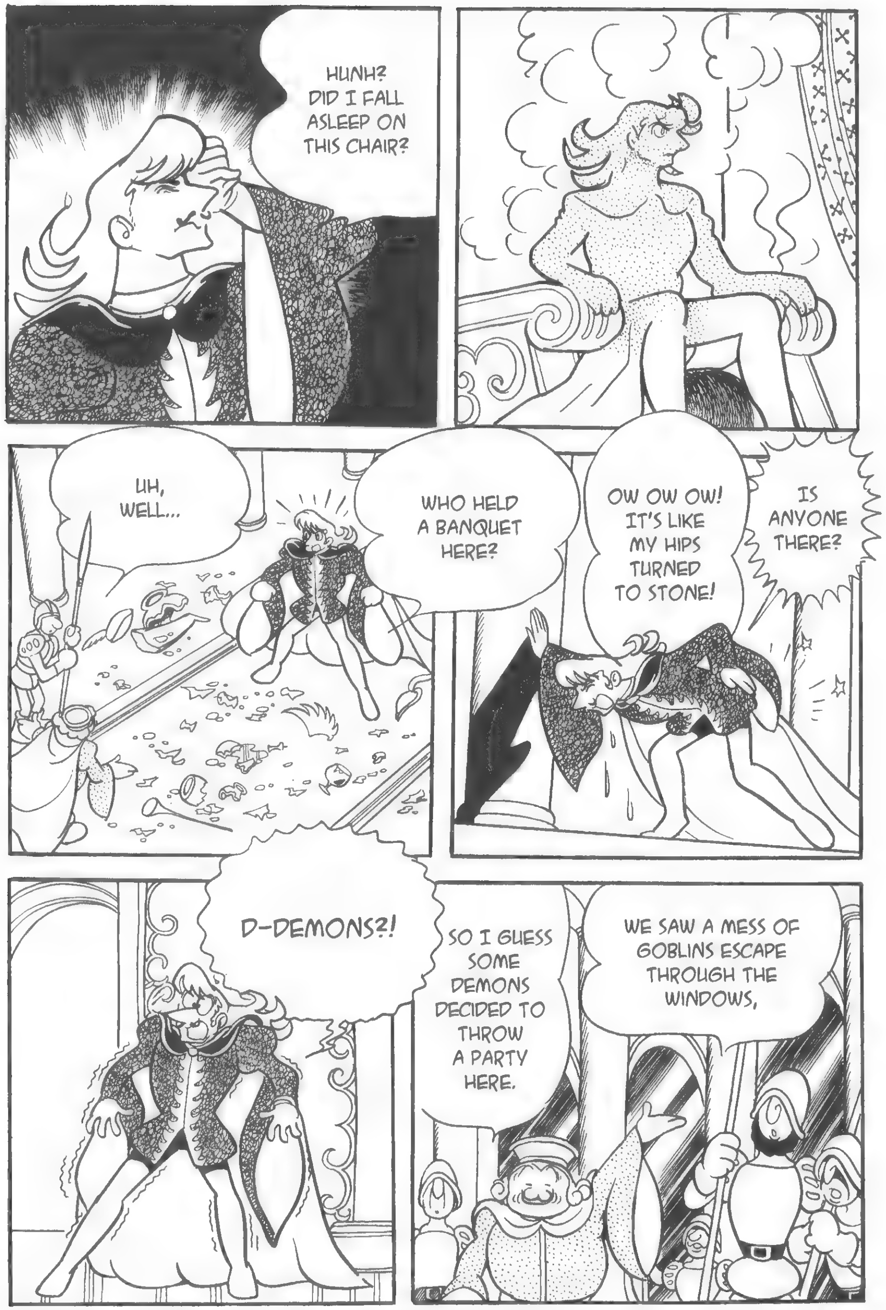

HUP!
KLANG
!!
PTOO
WHOA!
I'M DONE FOR.
AH!
MY DAGGER ... IS A CRUCIFIX!
ARGH!

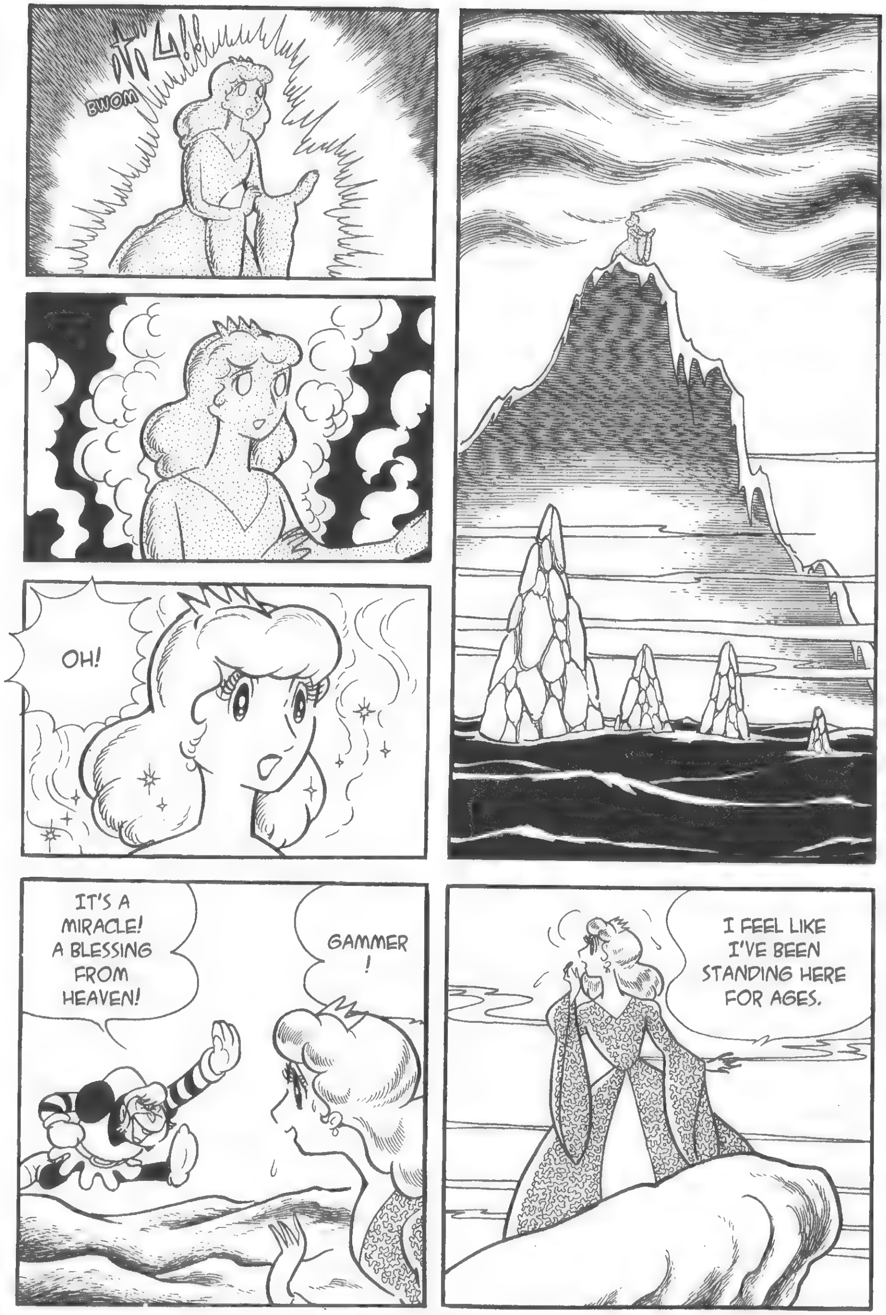

TAKE THAT! YAH!
YAARGH!
MOTHER!
KAPOW

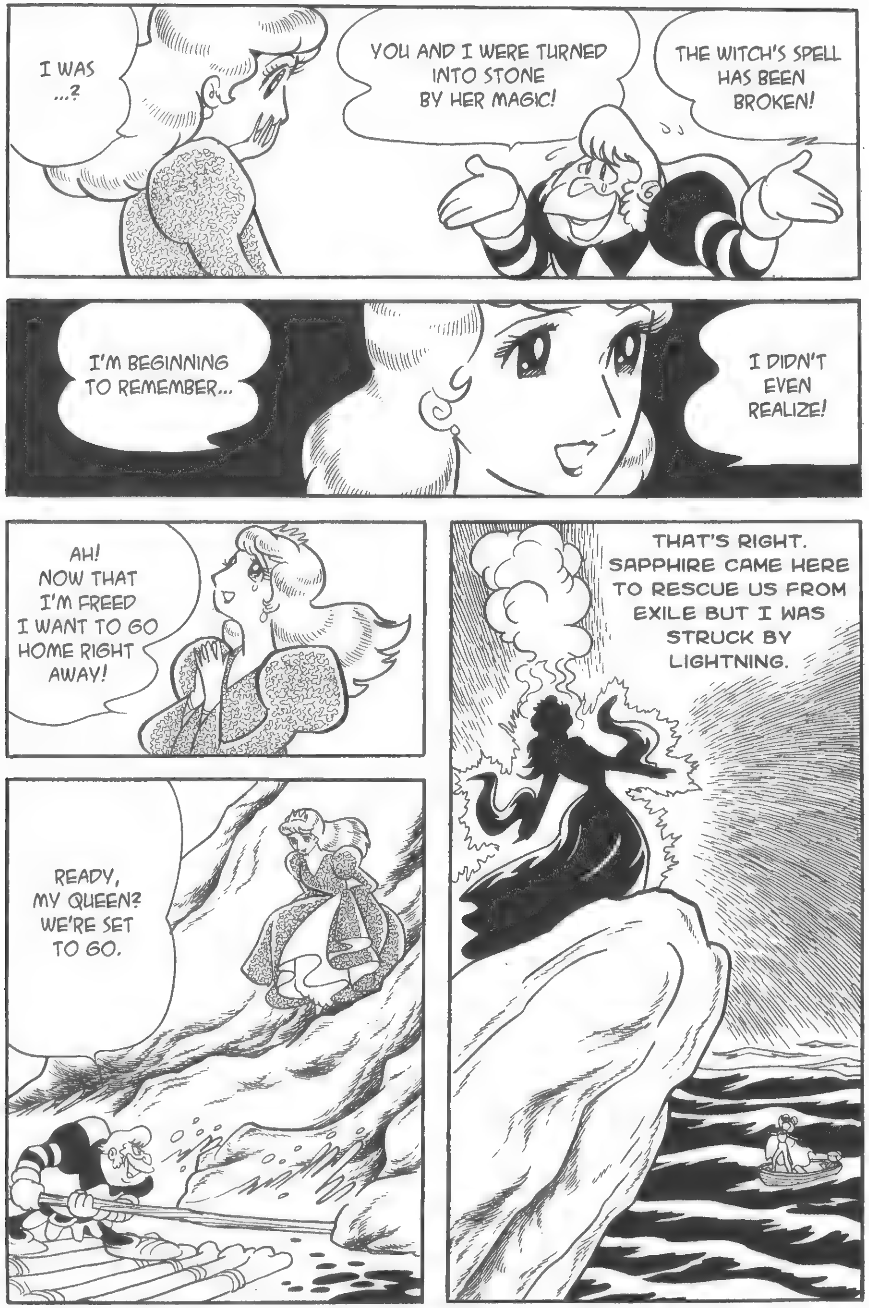

THE WITCH'S DEAD...
AH!
TINK... ARE YOU THE ONE THAT TURNED MY BLADE INTO A CROSS?
NO, I JUST PRAYED TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER.
THANKS! HOW DID YOU KNOW I'D RUN HERE?
I SNUCK INTO THE CASTLE, THEN FOLLOWED THE HOOFPRINTS.
I'M SORRY, HECATE. SHE WAS YOUR ONLY MOTHER.
FRANZ, MY TIME HAS COME... TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.


NO! JUST HANG ON!
HEH. IF MY MOTHER DIES, I DIE, TOO.
WHY? WHY MUST THAT BE SO?
I WAS BORN FROM MOM'S MAGIC. I'M VERY FRAGILE.
BUT I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR KILLING HER. IF YOU DIDN'T, SHE WOULD'VE KILLED YOU.
HECATE ...
PLEASE LEAVE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIDEOUS FORM I'LL ASSUME WHEN I DIE.
PLEASE DON'T LOOK... JUST GO...
GOOD-BYE... HECATE.
FAREWELL... FRANZ...


ポワ POOF
ポワ POOF
OH? WHAT NOW?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT WAS I DOING?
EEK!
GAAAH!
THE SPELL IS BROKEN! THEY'RE BACK TO BEING HUMAN!
WE GOTTA SCRAM!
RUN AWAY!

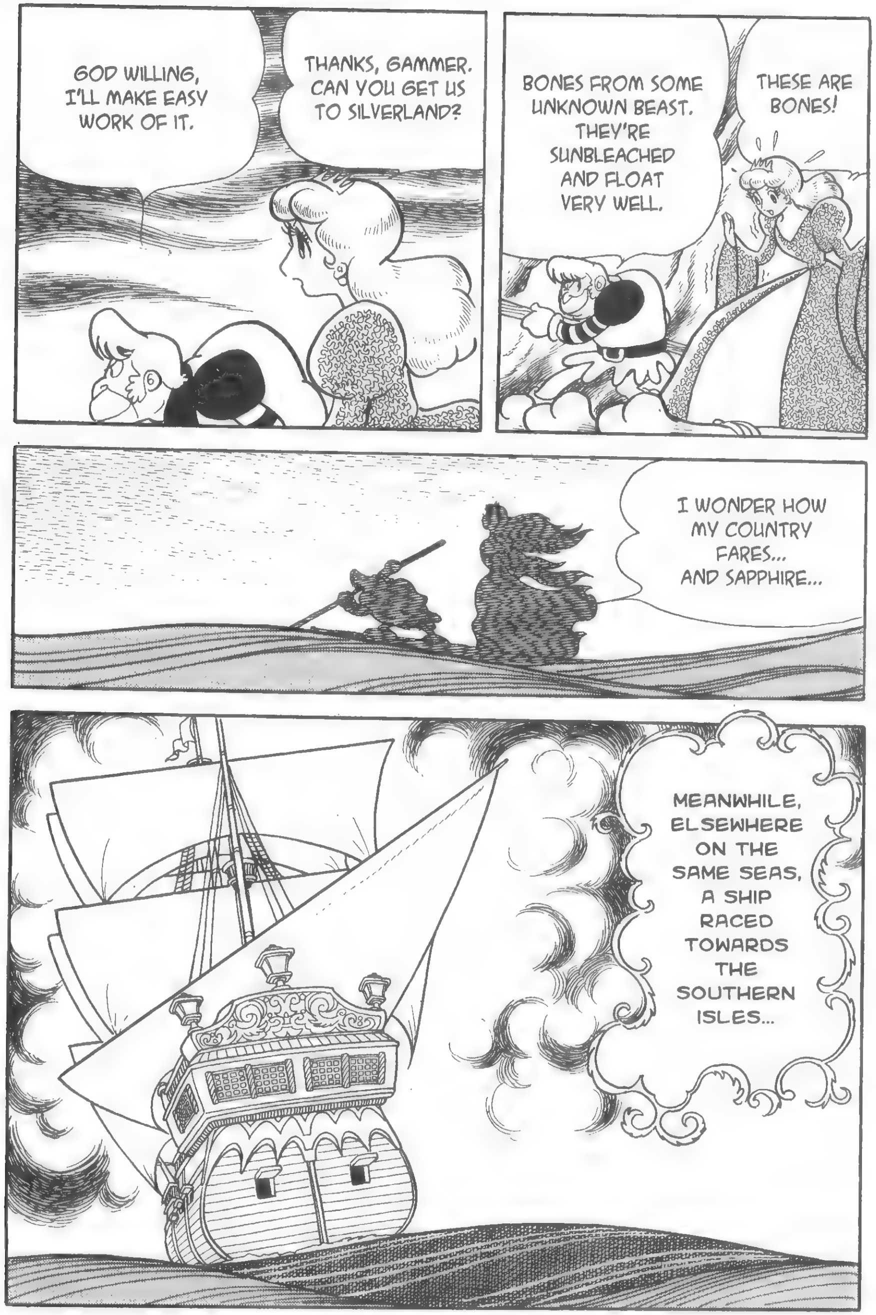

HUNH? DID I FALL ASLEEP ON THIS CHAIR?
IS ANYONE THERE?
OW OW OW! IT'S LIKE MY HIPS TURNED TO STONE!
WHO HELD A BANQUET HERE?
UH, WELL...
WE SAW A MESS OF GOBLINS ESCAPE THROUGH THE WINDOWS,
SO I GUESS SOME DEMONS DECIDED TO THROW A PARTY HERE.
D-DEMONS?!

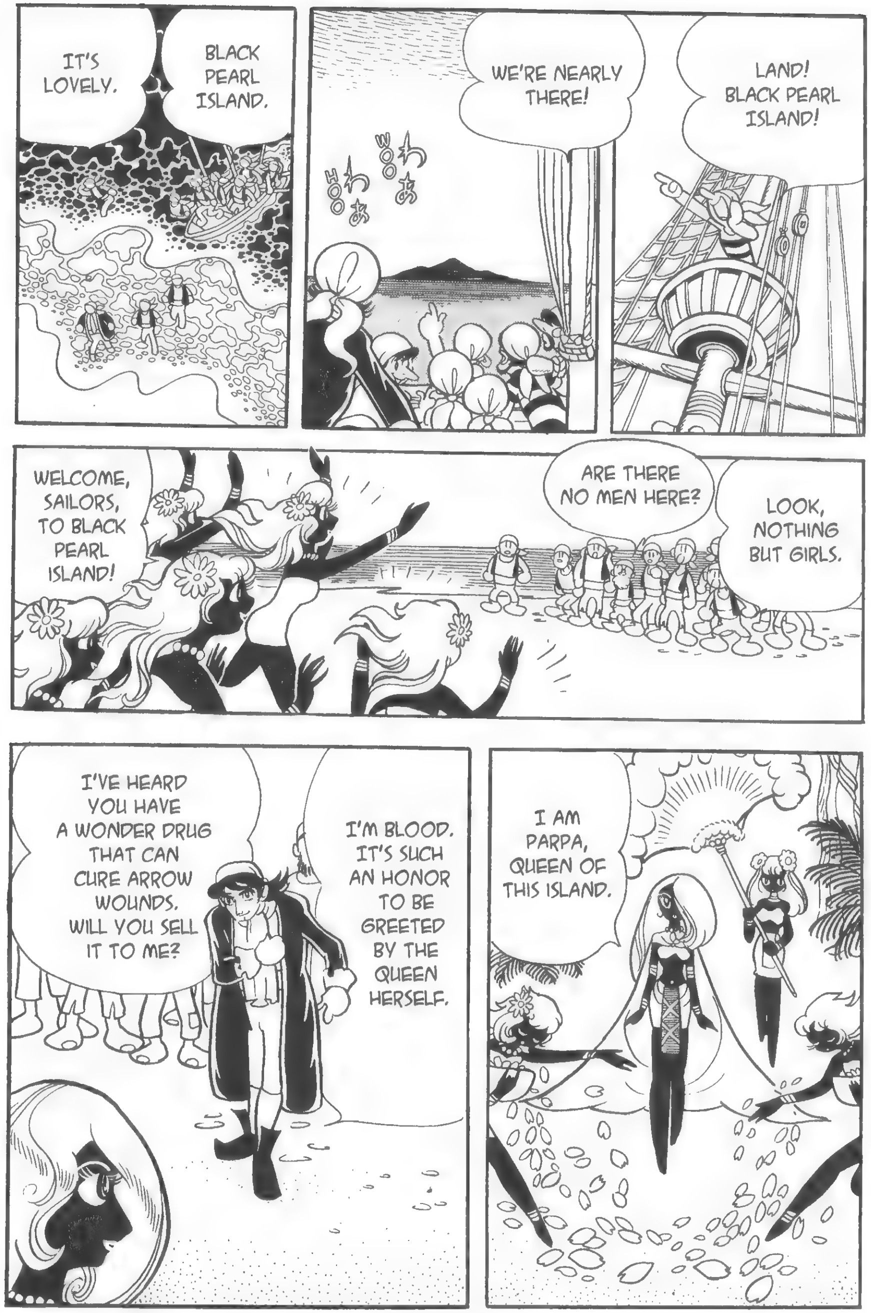

BWOM
OH!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE FOR AGES.
GAMMER!
IT'S A MIRACLE! A BLESSING FROM HEAVEN!

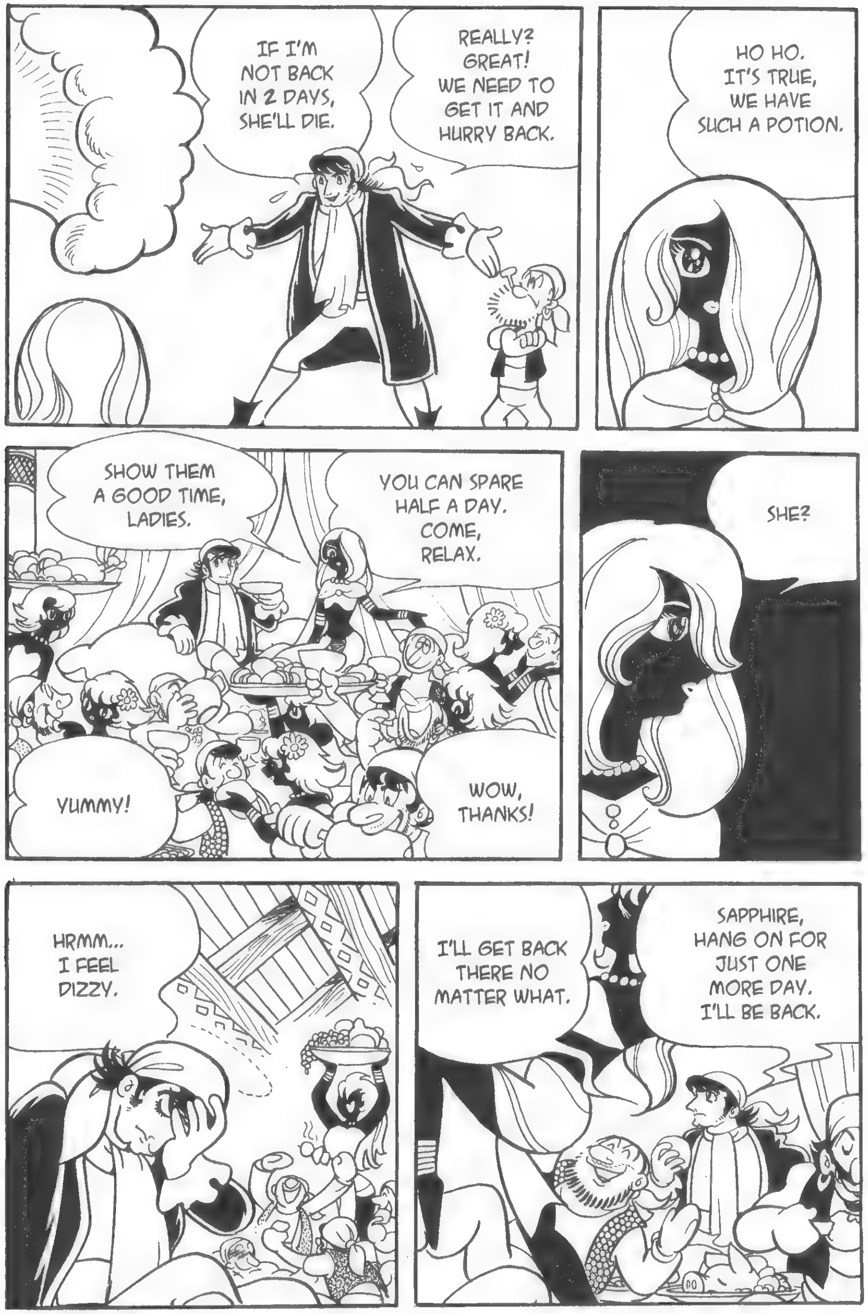

THE WITCH'S SPELL HAS BEEN BROKEN!
YOU AND I WERE TURNED INTO STONE BY HER MAGIC!
I WAS ...?
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE!
I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER...
THAT'S RIGHT. SAPPHIRE CAME HERE TO RESCUE US FROM EXILE BUT I WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.
AH! NOW THAT I'M FREED I WANT TO GO HOME RIGHT AWAY!
READY, MY QUEEN? WE'RE SET TO GO.

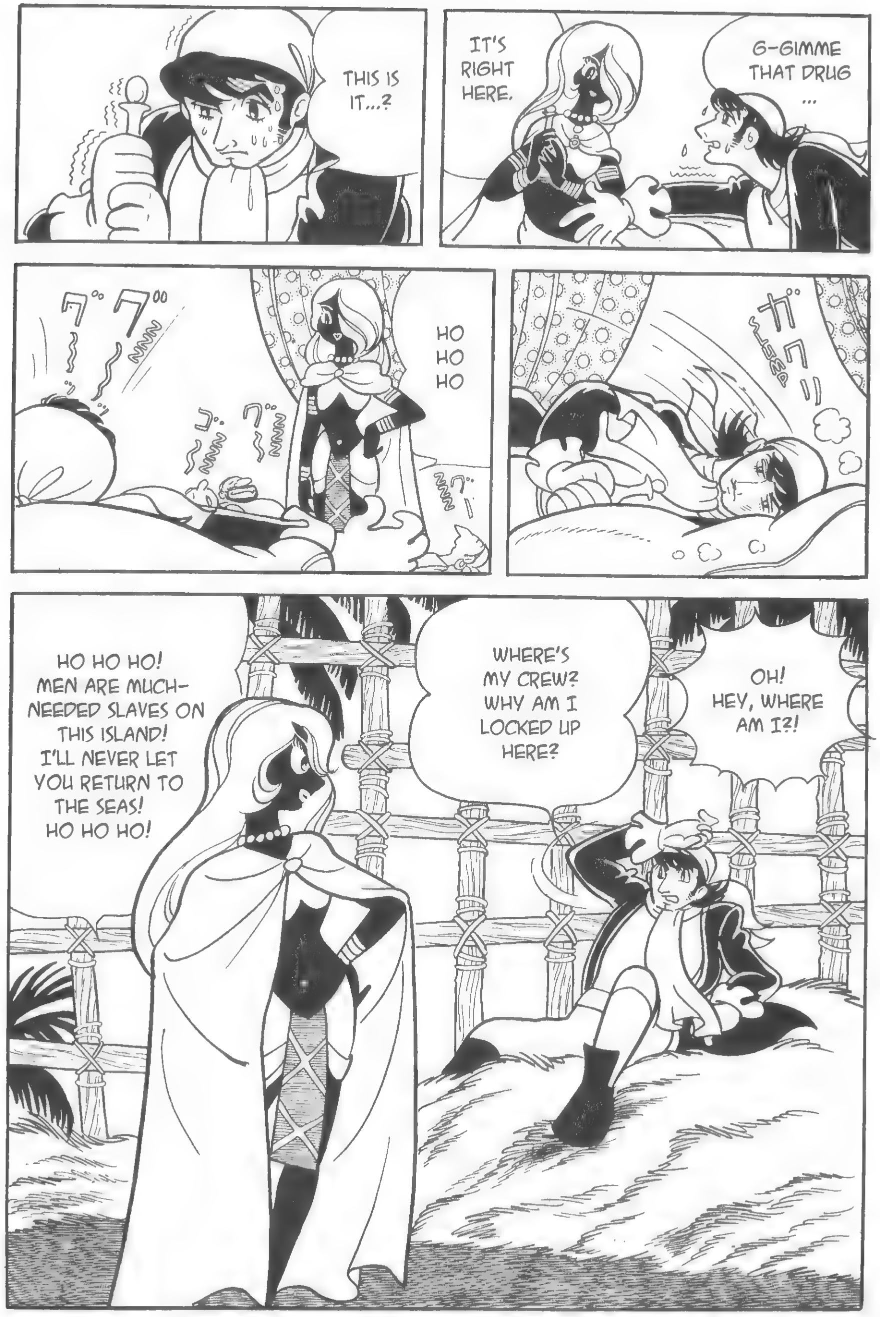
Chapter 23

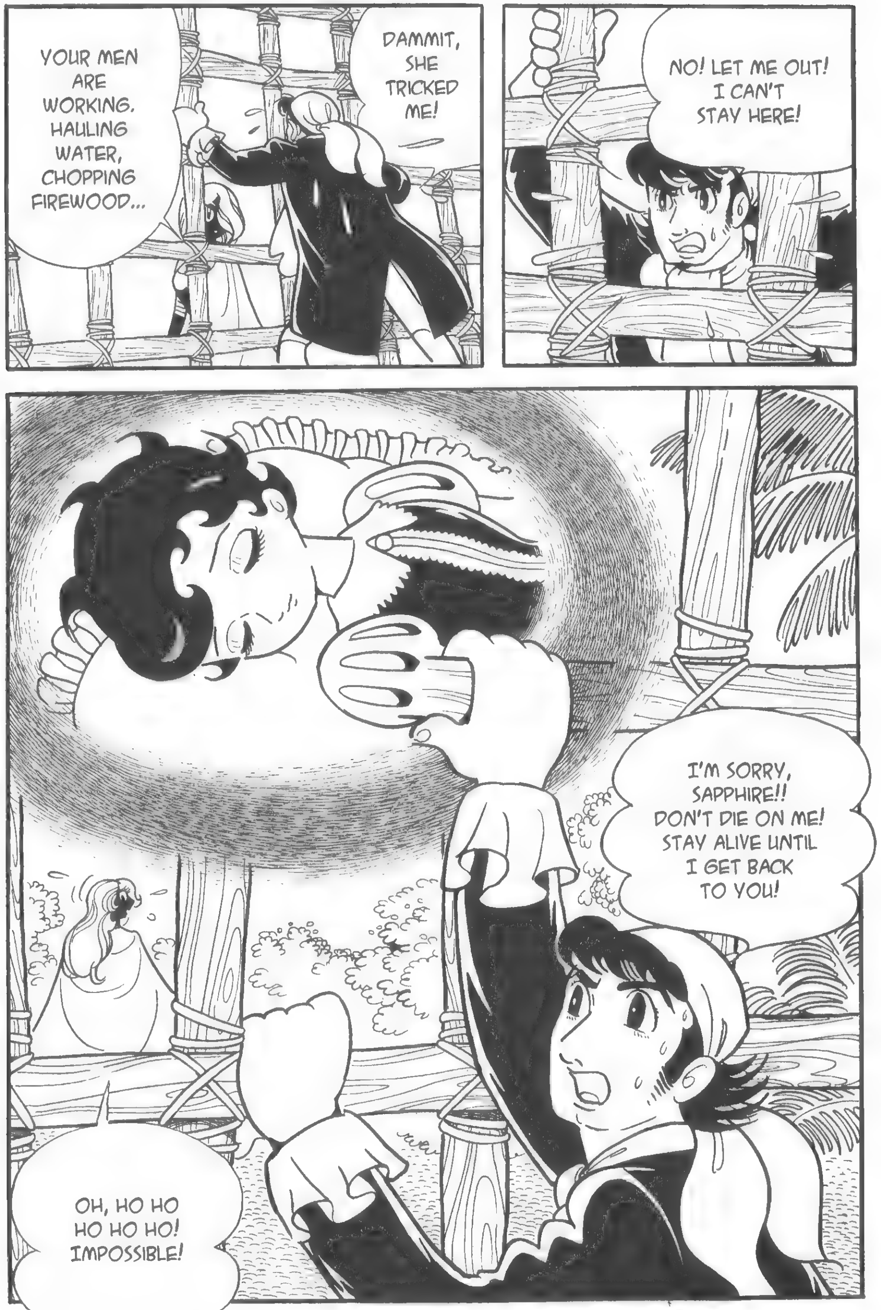
The Queen of Black Pearl Island

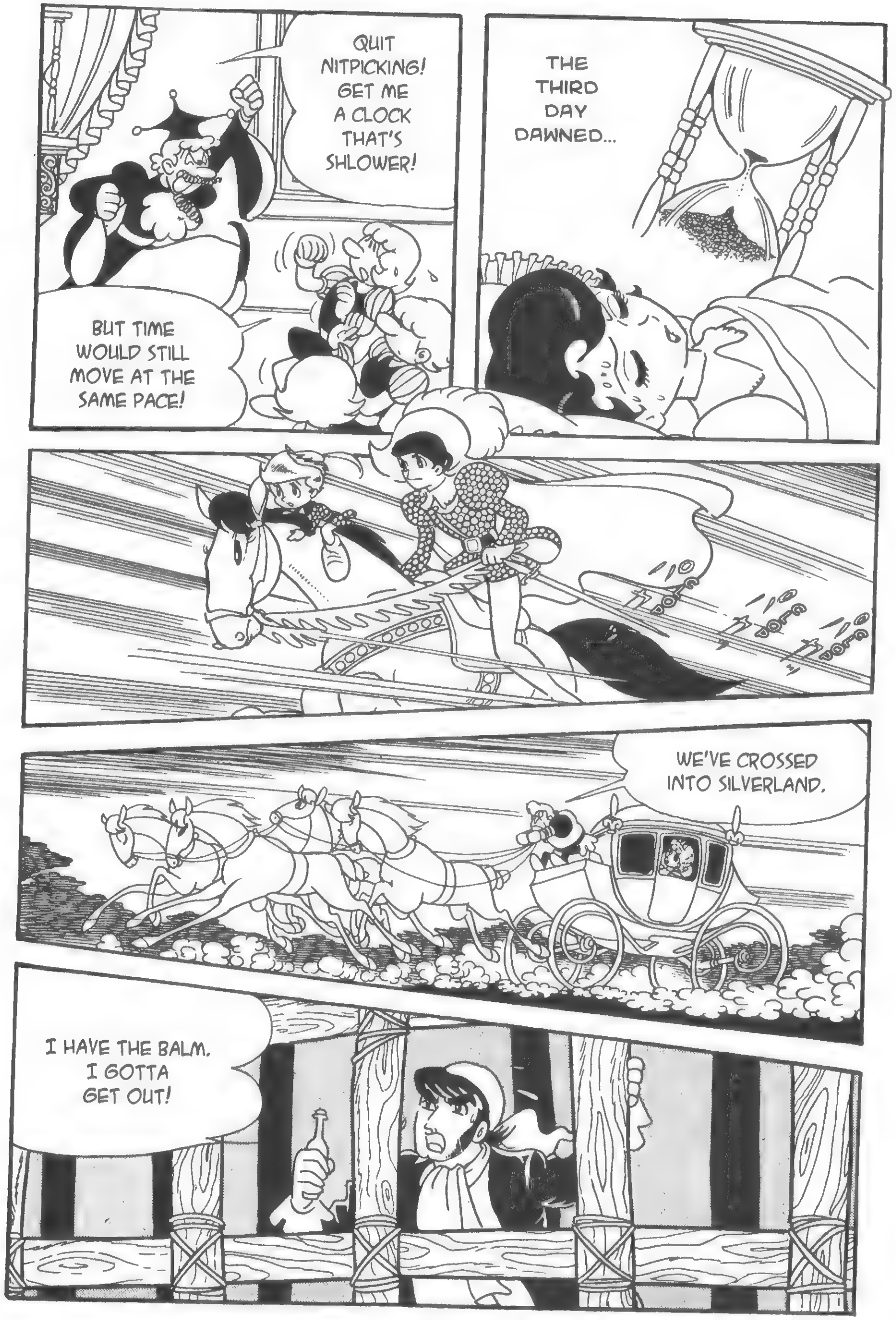

THESE ARE BONES!
BONES FROM SOME UNKNOWN BEAST. THEY'RE SUNBLEACHED AND FLOAT VERY WELL.
THANKS, GAMMER. CAN YOU GET US TO SILVERLAND?
GOD WILLING, I'LL MAKE EASY WORK OF IT.
I WONDER HOW MY COUNTRY FARES... AND SAPPHIRE...
MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE ON THE SAME SEAS, A SHIP RACED TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN ISLES...

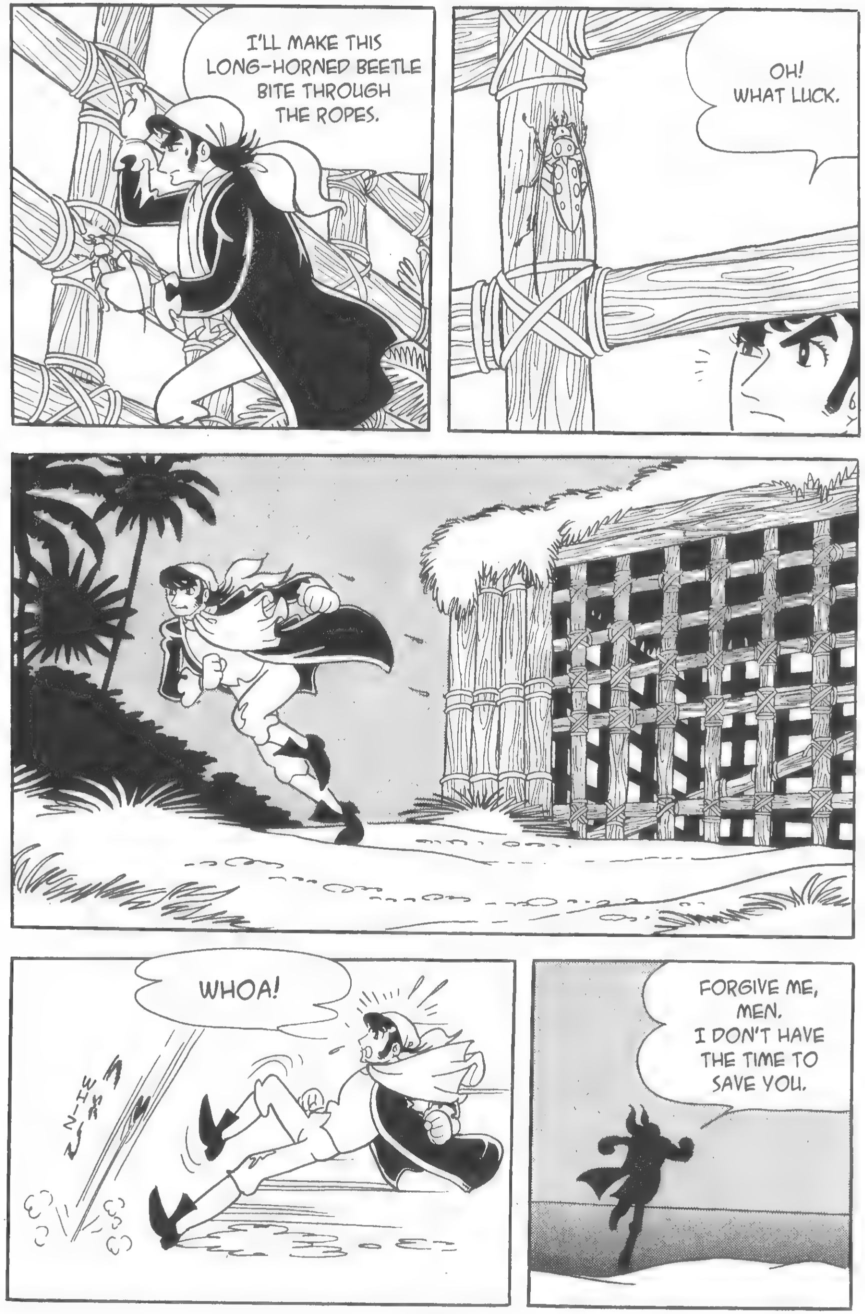

LAND! BLACK PEARL ISLAND!
WE'RE NEARLY THERE!
わあ WOO
わあ HOO
BLACK PEARL ISLAND.
IT'S LOVELY.
LOOK, NOTHING BUT GIRLS.
ARE THERE NO MEN HERE?
WELCOME, SAILORS, TO BLACK PEARL ISLAND!
I AM PARPA, QUEEN OF THIS ISLAND.
I'M BLOOD. IT'S SUCH AN HONOR TO BE GREETED BY THE QUEEN HERSELF.
I'VE HEARD YOU HAVE A WONDER DRUG THAT CAN CURE ARROW WOUNDS. WILL YOU SELL IT TO ME?

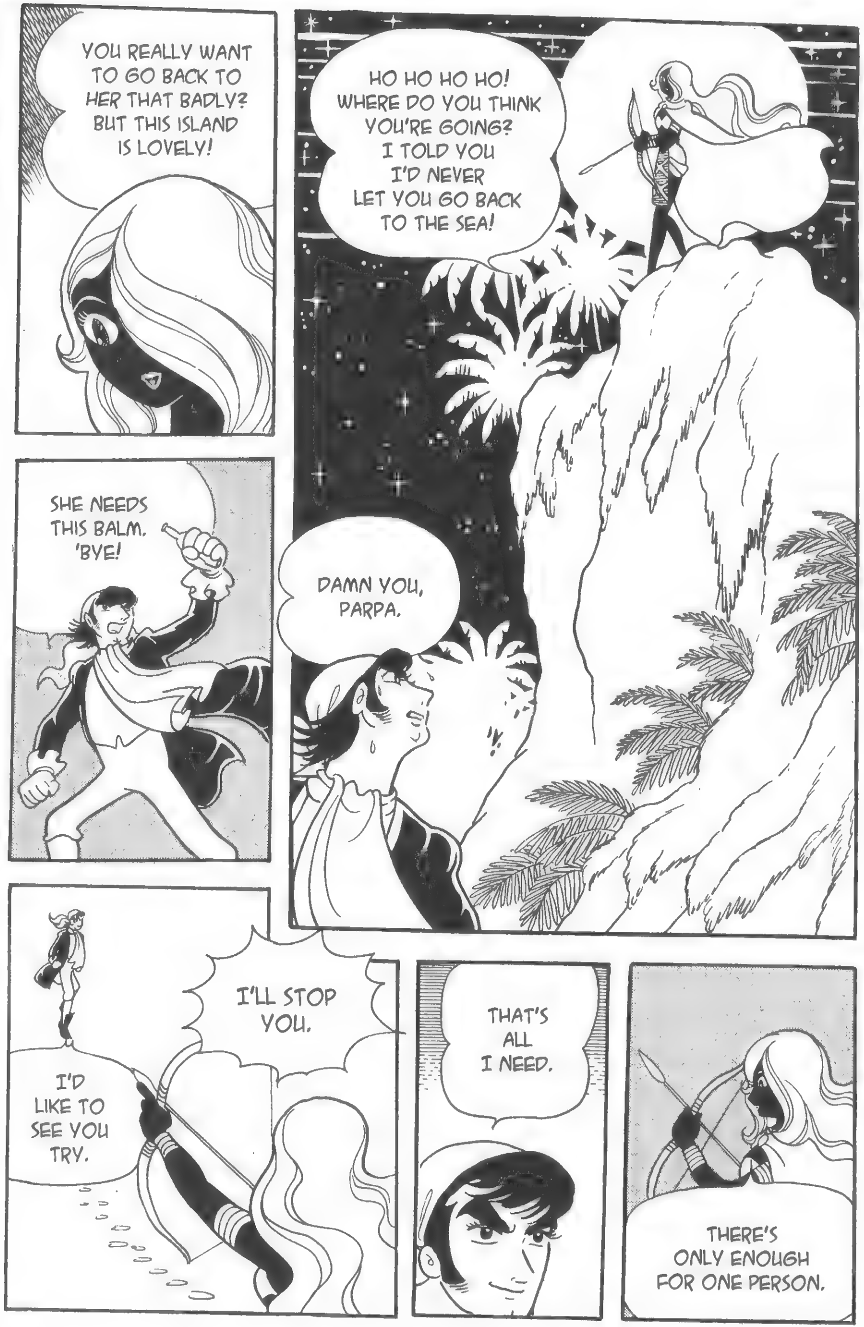

HO HO. IT'S TRUE, WE HAVE SUCH A POTION.
REALLY? GREAT! WE NEED TO GET IT AND HURRY BACK.
IF I'M NOT BACK IN 2 DAYS, SHE'LL DIE.
SHE?
YOU CAN SPARE HALF A DAY. COME, RELAX.
SHOW THEM A GOOD TIME, LADIES.
WOW, THANKS!
YUMMY!
SAPPHIRE, HANG ON FOR JUST ONE MORE DAY. I'LL BE BACK.
I'LL GET BACK THERE NO MATTER WHAT.
HRMM... I FEEL DIZZY.

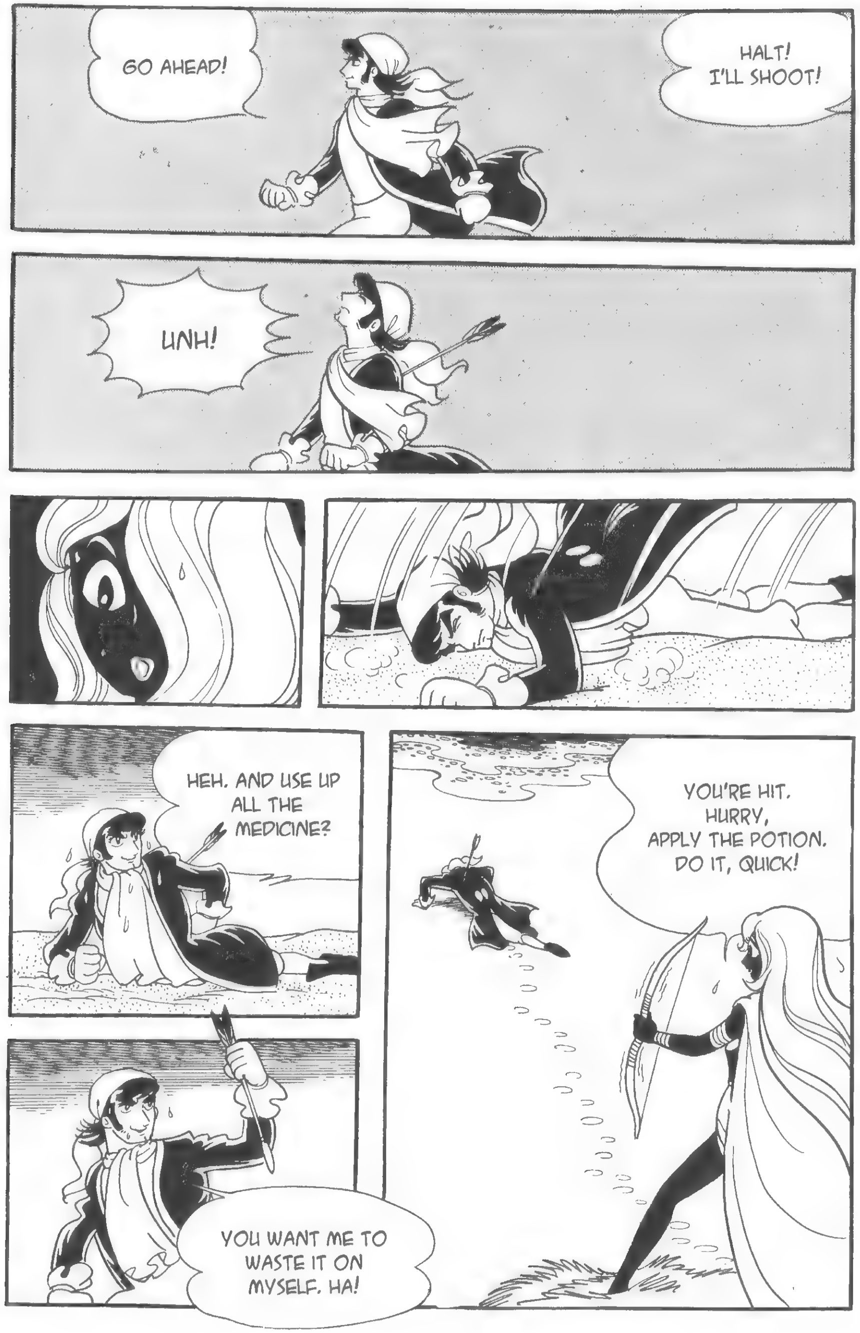

G-GIMME THAT DRUG ...
IT'S RIGHT HERE.
THIS IS IT...?
ガクリ
SLUMP
HO HO HO
グ～ グ～
ZZZ
OH! HEY, WHERE AM I?!
WHERE'S MY CREW? WHY AM I LOCKED UP HERE?
HO HO HO! MEN ARE MUCH-NEEDED SLAVES ON THIS ISLAND! I'LL NEVER LET YOU RETURN TO THE SEAS! HO HO HO!

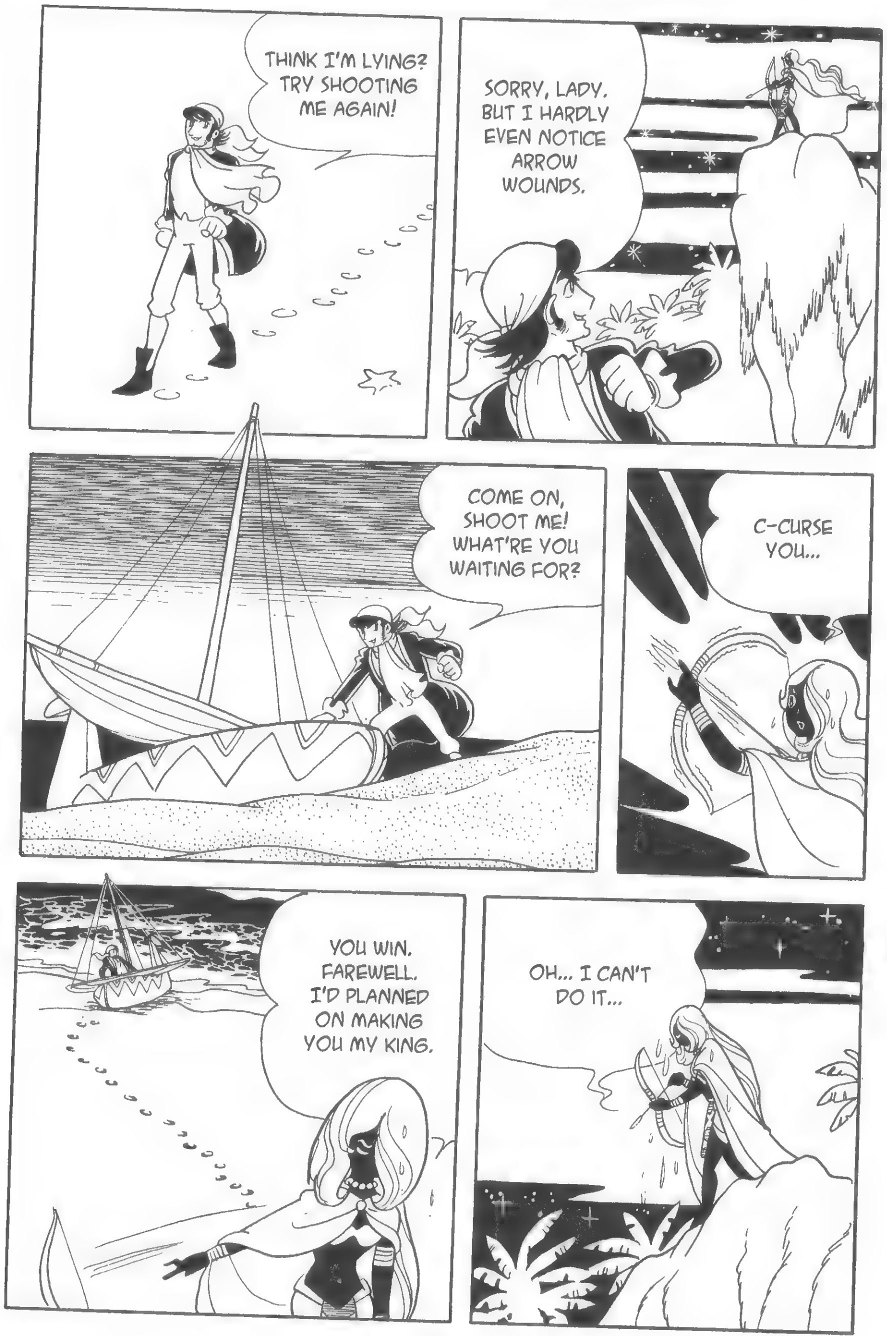

NO! LET ME OUT! I CAN'T STAY HERE!
DAMMIT, SHE TRICKED ME!
YOUR MEN ARE WORKING. HAULING WATER, CHOPPING FIREWOOD...
I'M SORRY, SAPPHIRE!! DON'T DIE ON ME! STAY ALIVE UNTIL I GET BACK TO YOU!
OH, HO HO HO HO! IMPOSSIBLE!

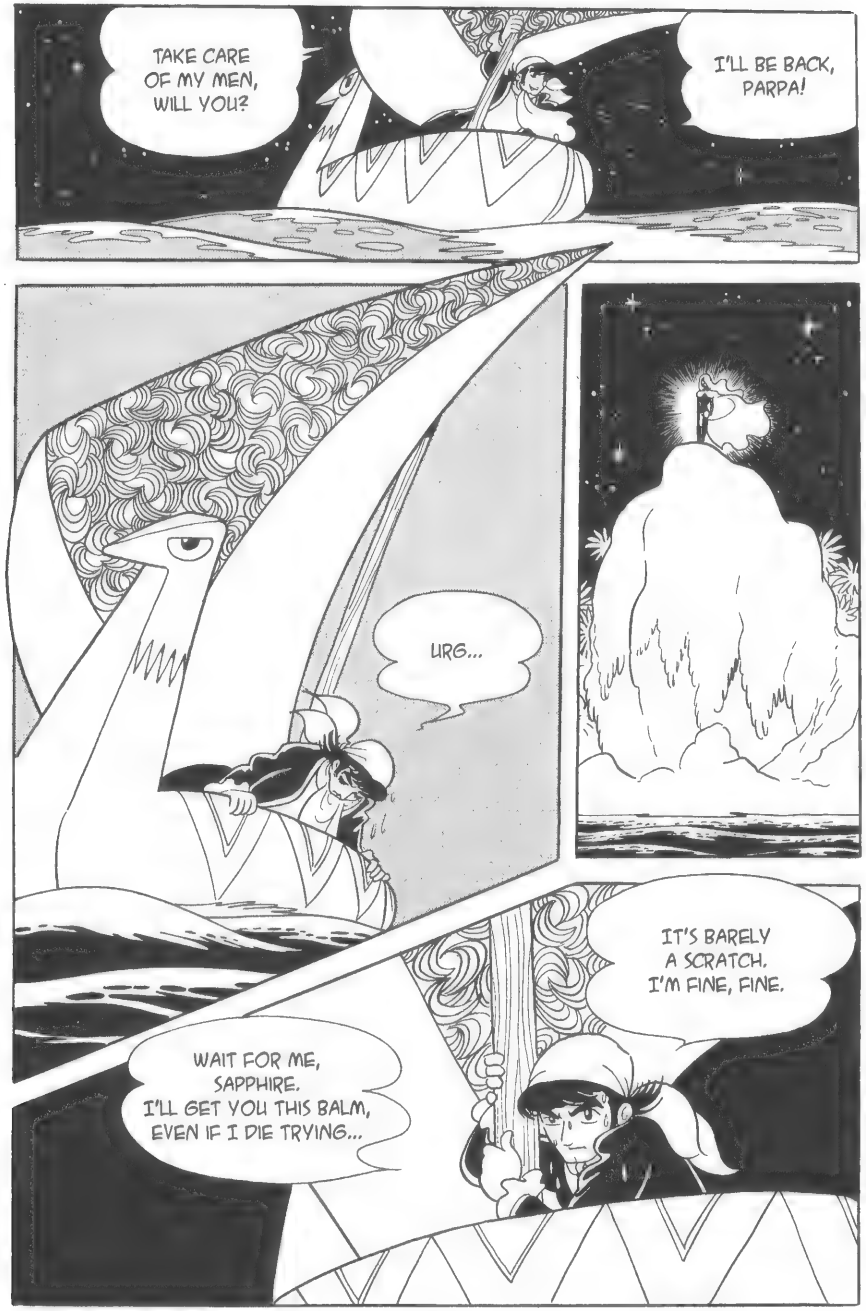

THE THIRD DAY DAWNED...
QUIT NITPICKING! GET ME A CLOCK THAT'S SHLOWER!
BUT TIME WOULD STILL MOVE AT THE SAME PACE!
WE'VE CROSSED INTO SILVERLAND.
I HAVE THE BALM. I GOTTA GET OUT!

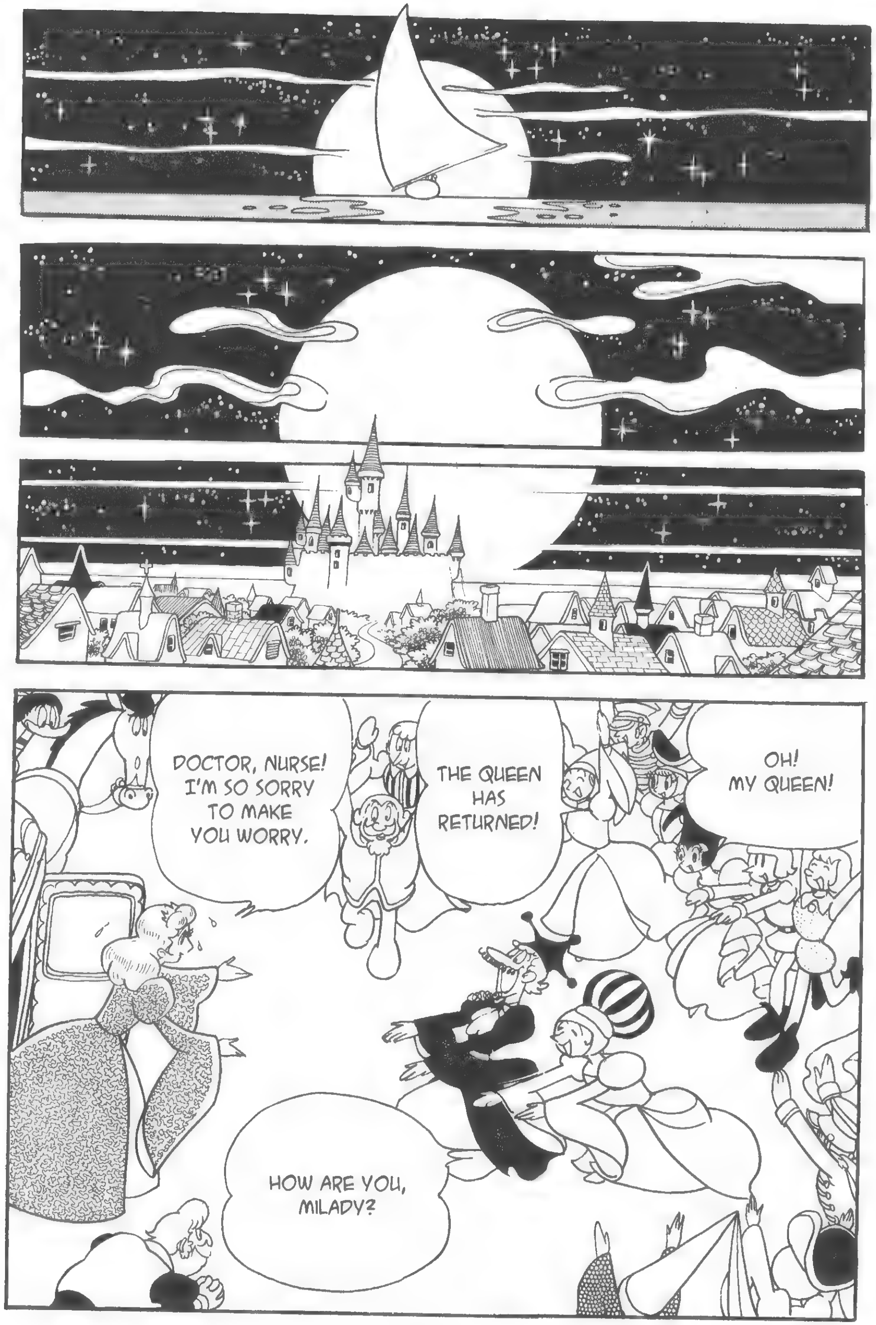

OH! WHAT LUCK.
I'LL MAKE THIS LONG-HORNED BEETLE BITE THROUGH THE ROPES.
FORGIVE ME, MEN. I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO SAVE YOU.
WHOA!

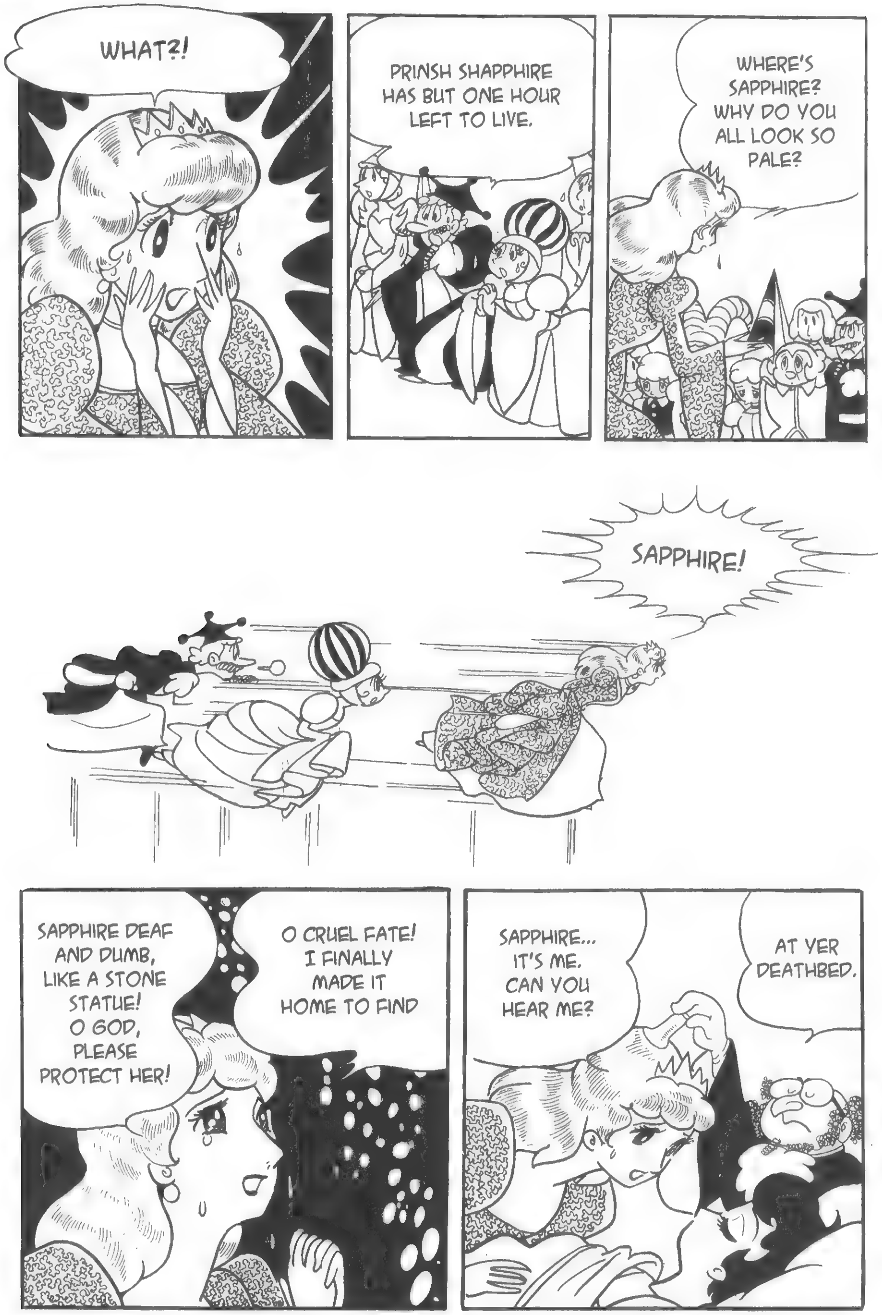

HO HO HO HO! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? I TOLD YOU I'D NEVER LET YOU GO BACK TO THE SEA!
DAMN YOU, PARPA.
YOU REALLY WANT TO GO BACK TO HER THAT BADLY? BUT THIS ISLAND IS LOVELY!
SHE NEEDS THIS BALM. 'BYE!
THERE'S ONLY ENOUGH FOR ONE PERSON.
THAT'S ALL I NEED.
I'LL STOP YOU.
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY.

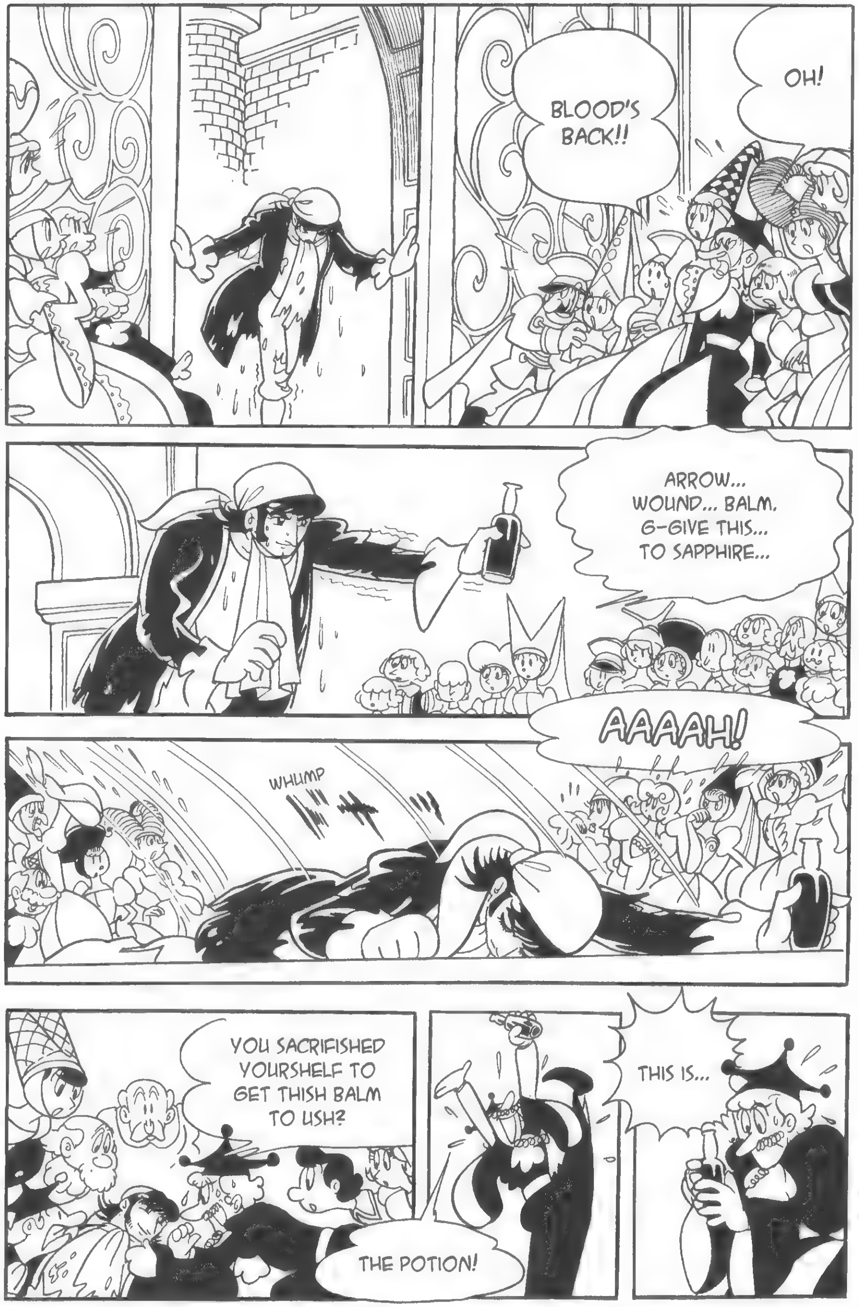

HALT! I'LL SHOOT!
GO AHEAD!
UNH!
YOU'RE HIT. HURRY, APPLY THE POTION. DO IT, QUICK!
HEH. AND USE UP ALL THE MEDICINE?
YOU WANT ME TO WASTE IT ON MYSELF. HA!

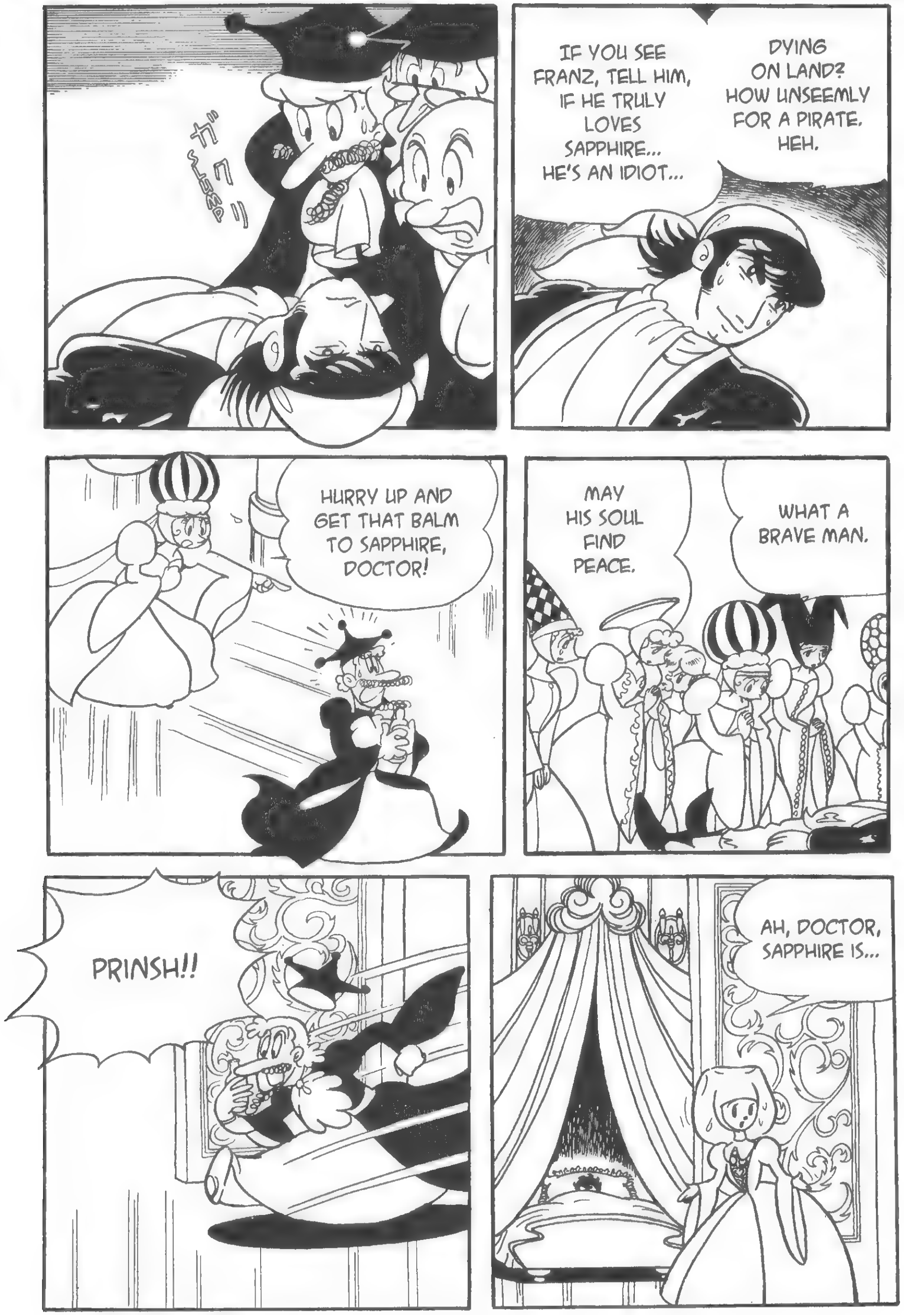

SORRY, LADY. BUT I HARDLY EVEN NOTICE ARROW WOUNDS.
THINK I'M LYING? TRY SHOOTING ME AGAIN!
C-CURSE YOU...
COME ON, SHOOT ME! WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?
OH... I CAN'T DO IT...
YOU WIN. FAREWELL. I'D PLANNED ON MAKING YOU MY KING.

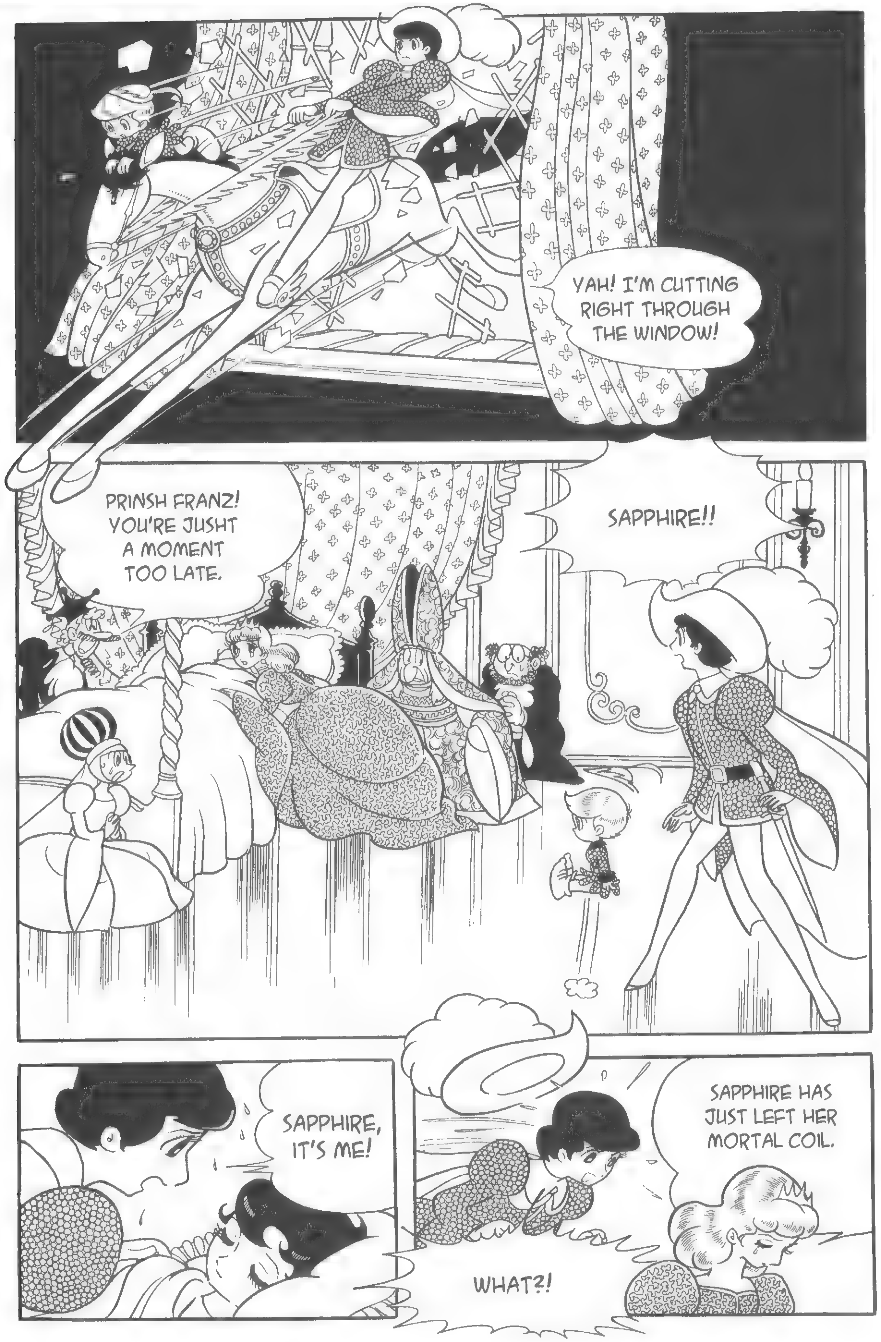

I'LL BE BACK, PARPA!
TAKE CARE OF MY MEN, WILL YOU?
URG...
IT'S BARELY A SCRATCH. I'M FINE, FINE.
WAIT FOR ME, SAPPHIRE. I'LL GET YOU THIS BALM, EVEN IF I DIE TRYING...

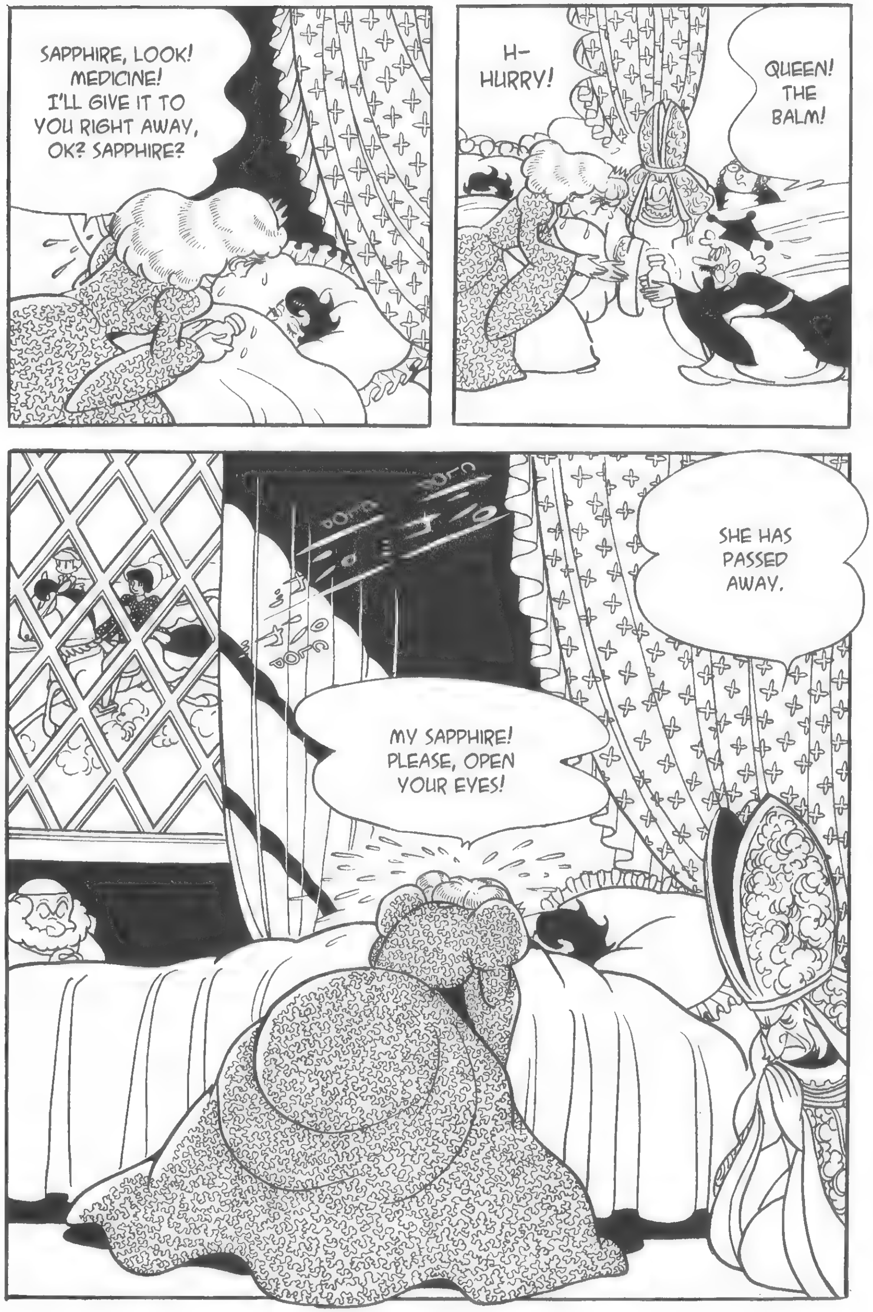

OH! MY QUEEN!
THE QUEEN HAS RETURNED!
DOCTOR, NURSE! I'M SO SORRY TO MAKE YOU WORRY.
HOW ARE YOU, MILADY?

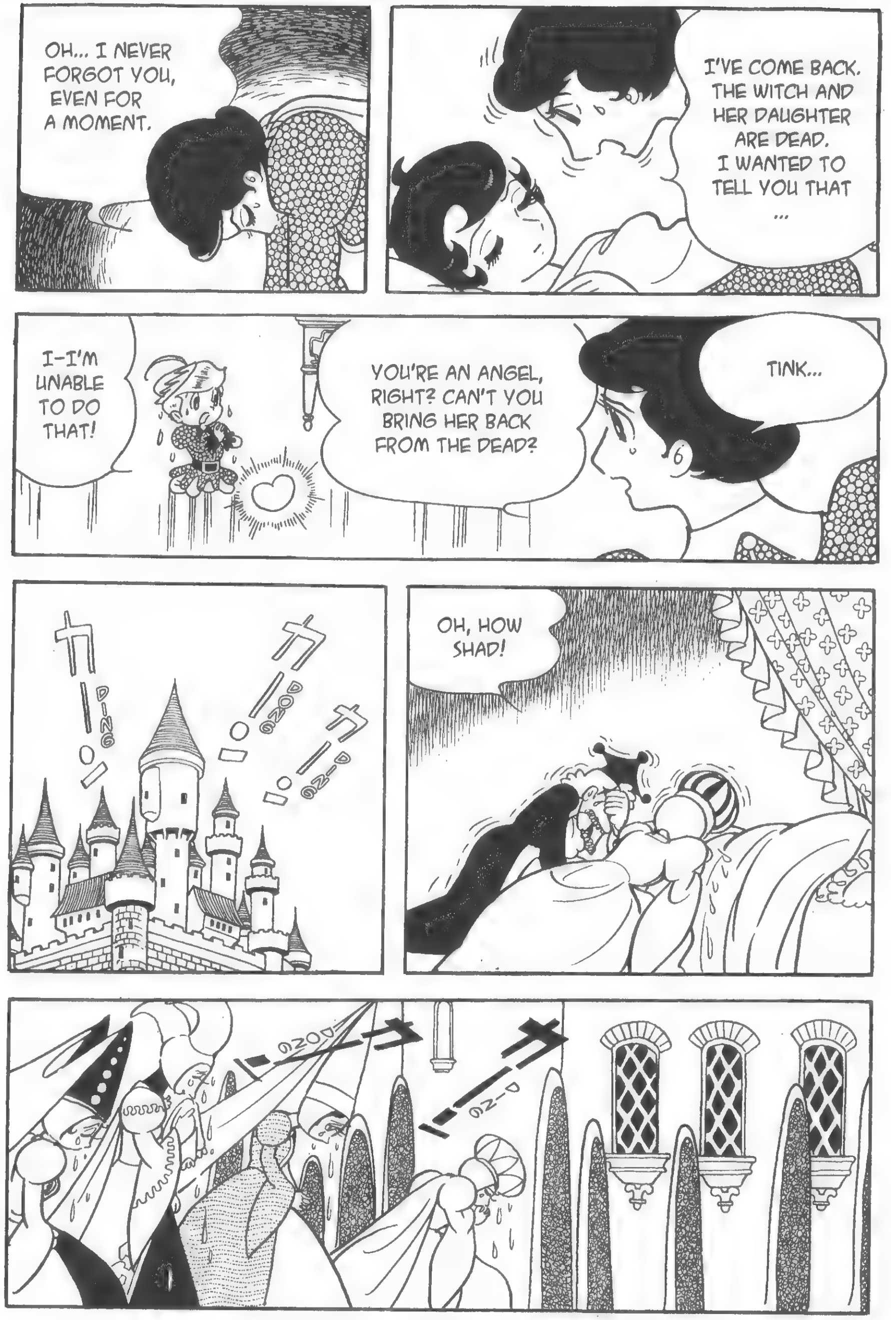

WHERE'S SAPPHIRE? WHY DO YOU ALL LOOK SO PALE?
PRINSH SHAPPHIRE HAS BUT ONE HOUR LEFT TO LIVE.
WHAT?!
SAPPHIRE!
AT YER DEATHBED.
SAPPHIRE... IT'S ME. CAN YOU HEAR ME?
O CRUEL FATE! I FINALLY MADE IT HOME TO FIND
SAPPHIRE DEAF AND DUMB, LIKE A STONE STATUE! O GOD, PLEASE PROTECT HER!

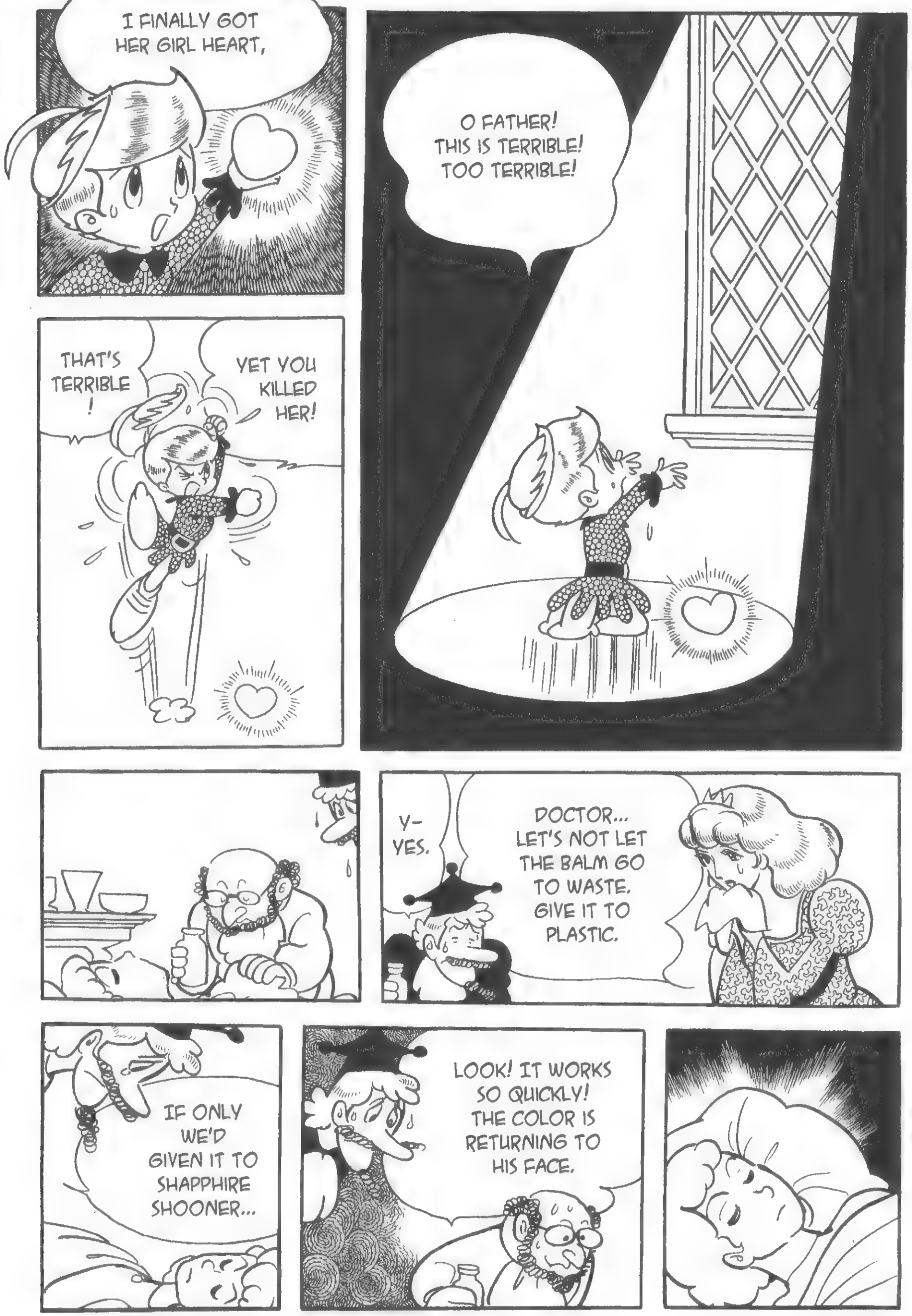

BLOOD'S BACK!!
OH!
ARROW... WOUND... BALM. G-GIVE THIS... TO SAPPHIRE...
AAAAH!
WHUMP
YOU SACRIFISHED YOURSHELF TO GET THISH BALM TO USH?
THIS IS...
THE POTION!

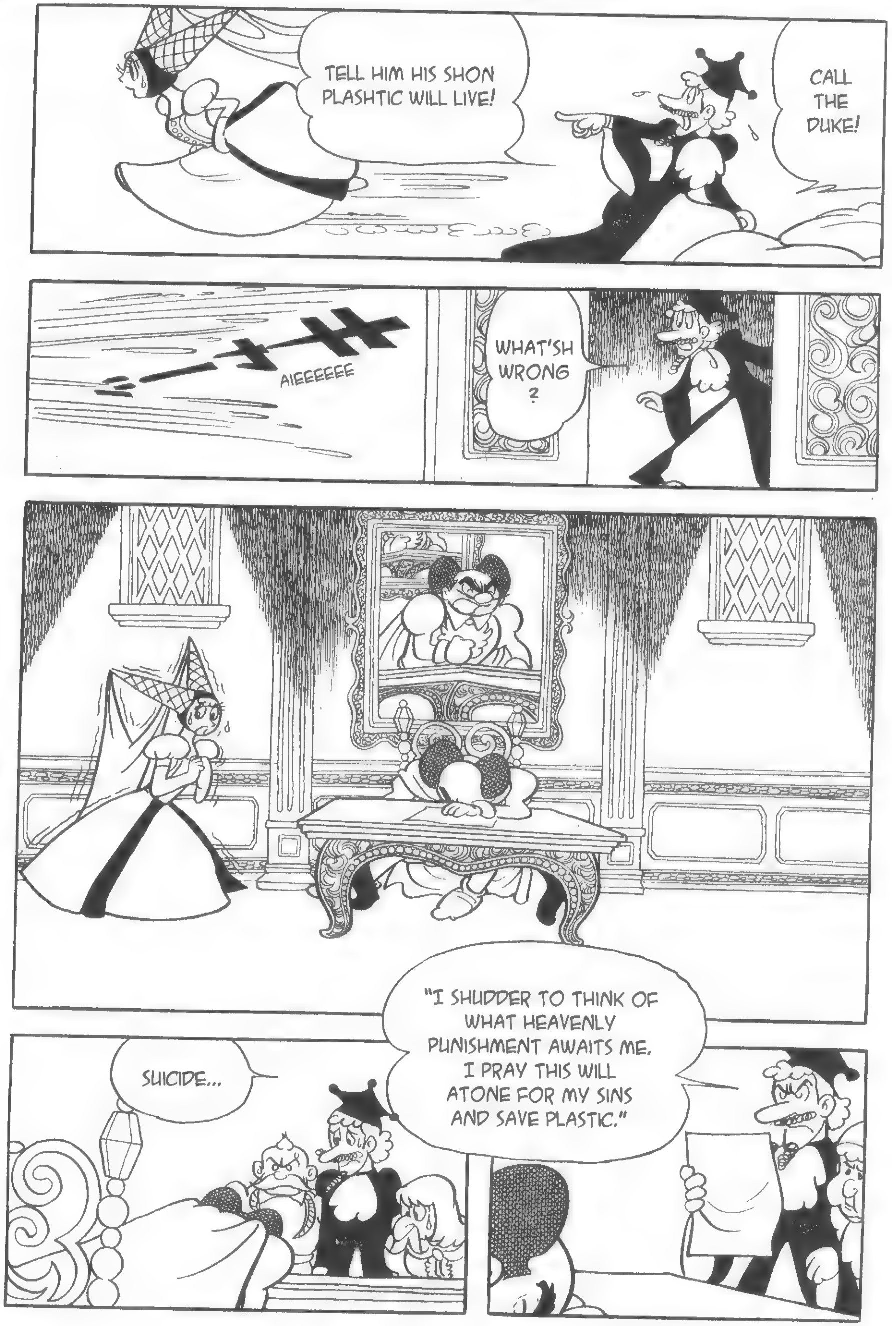

ガクリ SLUMP
IF YOU SEE FRANZ, TELL HIM, IF HE TRULY LOVES SAPPHIRE... HE'S AN IDIOT...
DYING ON LAND? HOW UNSEEMLY FOR A PIRATE. HEH.
HURRY UP AND GET THAT BALM TO SAPPHIRE, DOCTOR!
MAY HIS SOUL FIND PEACE.
WHAT A BRAVE MAN.
PRINSH!!
AH, DOCTOR, SAPPHIRE IS...

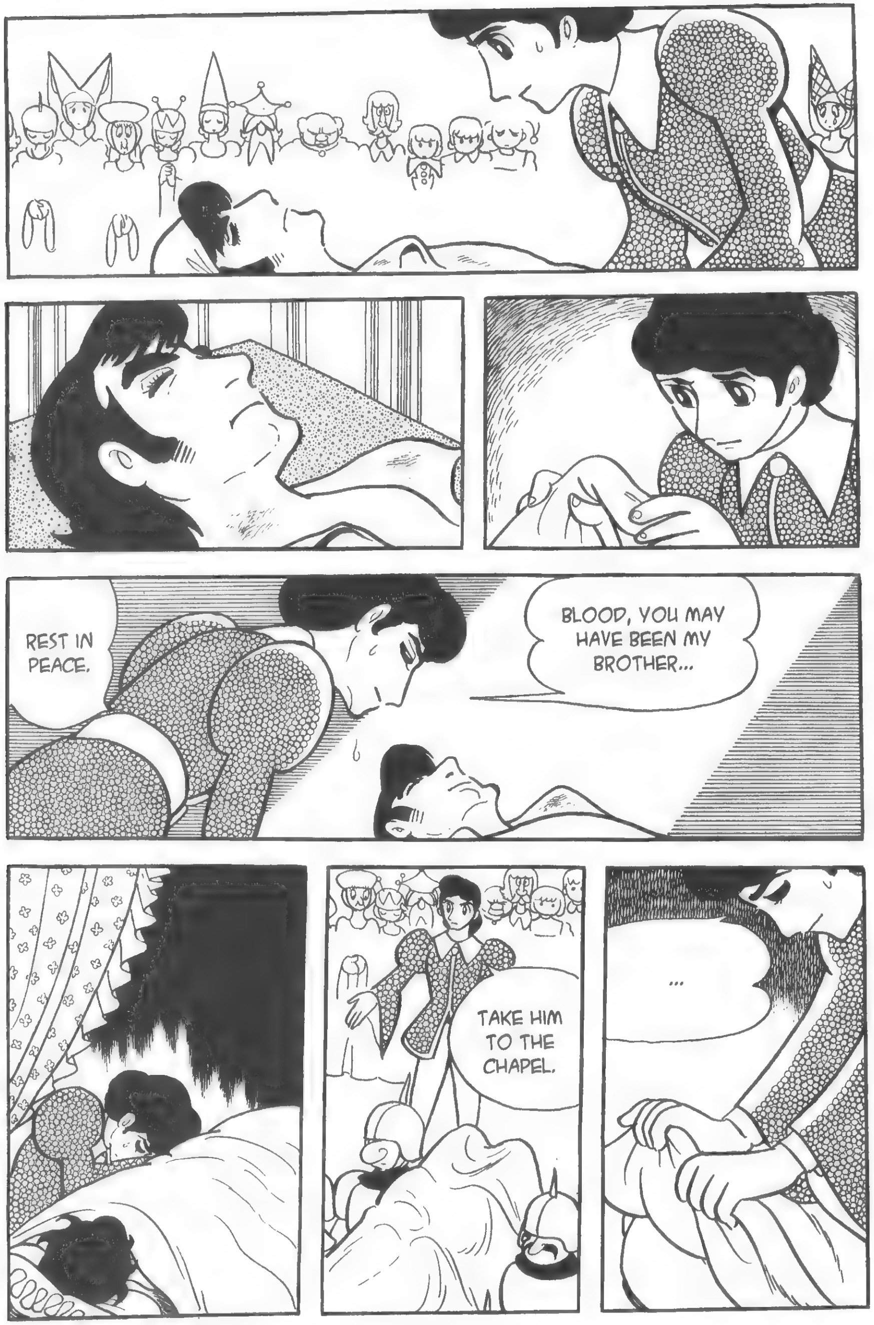

YAH! I'M CUTTING RIGHT THROUGH THE WINDOW!
SAPPHIRE!!
PRINSH FRANZ! YOU'RE JUSHT A MOMENT TOO LATE.
SAPPHIRE, IT'S ME!
SAPPHIRE HAS JUST LEFT HER MORTAL COIL.
WHAT?!


SAPPHIRE, LOOK! MEDICINE! I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT AWAY, OK? SAPPHIRE?
QUEEN! THE BALM!
H-HURRY!
MY SAPPHIRE! PLEASE, OPEN YOUR EYES!
SHE HAS PASSED AWAY.


I'VE COME BACK. THE WITCH AND HER DAUGHTER ARE DEAD. I WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT ...
OH... I NEVER FORGOT YOU, EVEN FOR A MOMENT.
TINK...
YOU'RE AN ANGEL, RIGHT? CAN'T YOU BRING HER BACK FROM THE DEAD?
I-I'M UNABLE TO DO THAT!
OH, HOW SHAD!
カーン DING
カーン DONG
カーン DING
カーン DONG
カーン DING

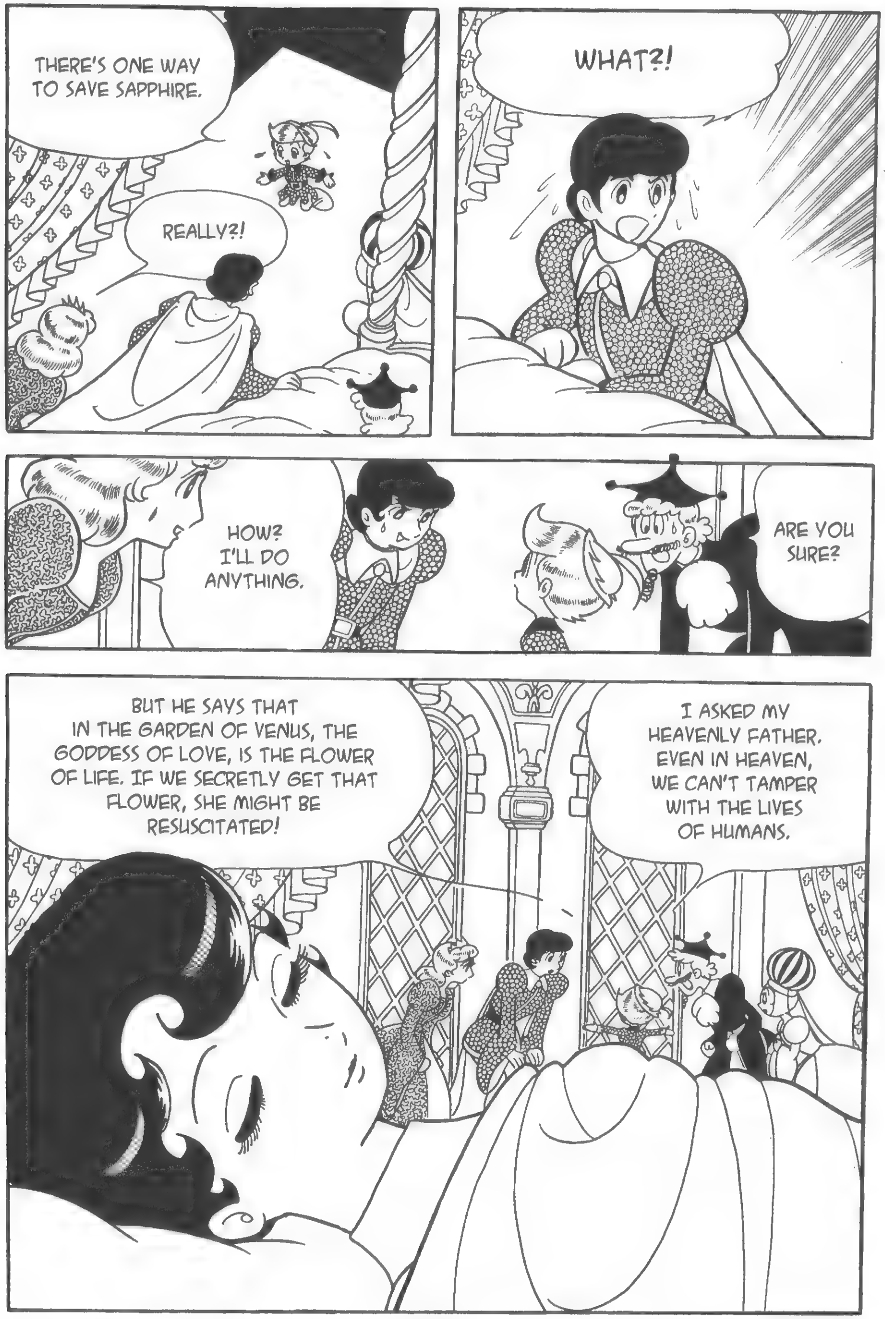

I FINALLY GOT HER GIRL HEART,
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
YET YOU KILLED HER!
O FATHER! THIS IS TERRIBLE! TOO TERRIBLE!
DOCTOR... LET'S NOT LET THE BALM GO TO WASTE. GIVE IT TO PLASTIC.
Y- YES.
LOOK! IT WORKS SO QUICKLY! THE COLOR IS RETURNING TO HIS FACE.
IF ONLY WE'D GIVEN IT TO SHAPPHIRE SHOONER...

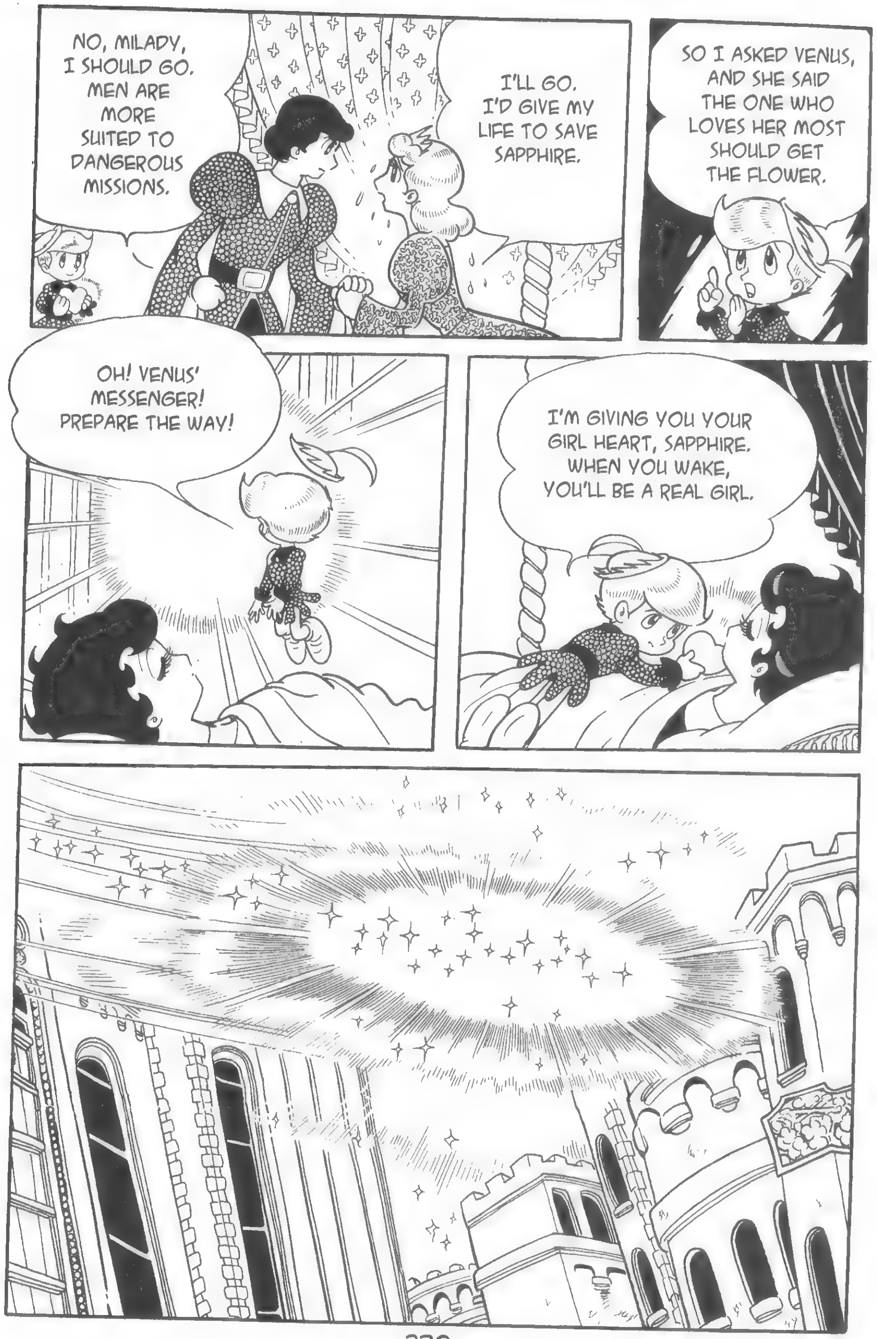

CALL THE DUKE!
TELL HIM HIS SHON PLASHTIC WILL LIVE!
WHAT'SH WRONG ?
AIEEEEEE
"I SHUDDER TO THINK OF WHAT HEAVENLY PUNISHMENT AWAITS ME. I PRAY THIS WILL ATONE FOR MY SINS AND SAVE PLASTIC."
SUICIDE...

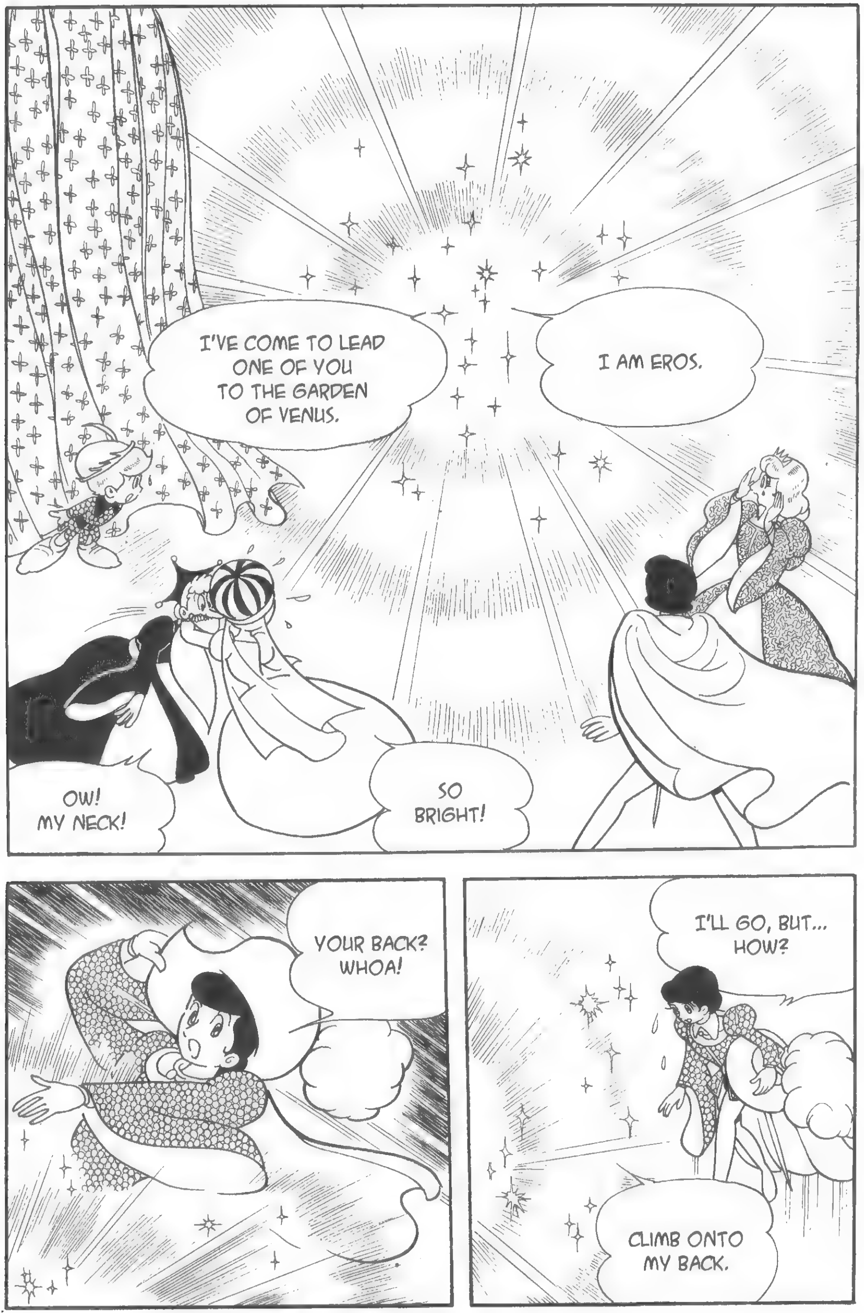

BLOOD, YOU MAY HAVE BEEN MY BROTHER...
REST IN PEACE.
...
TAKE HIM TO THE CHAPEL.

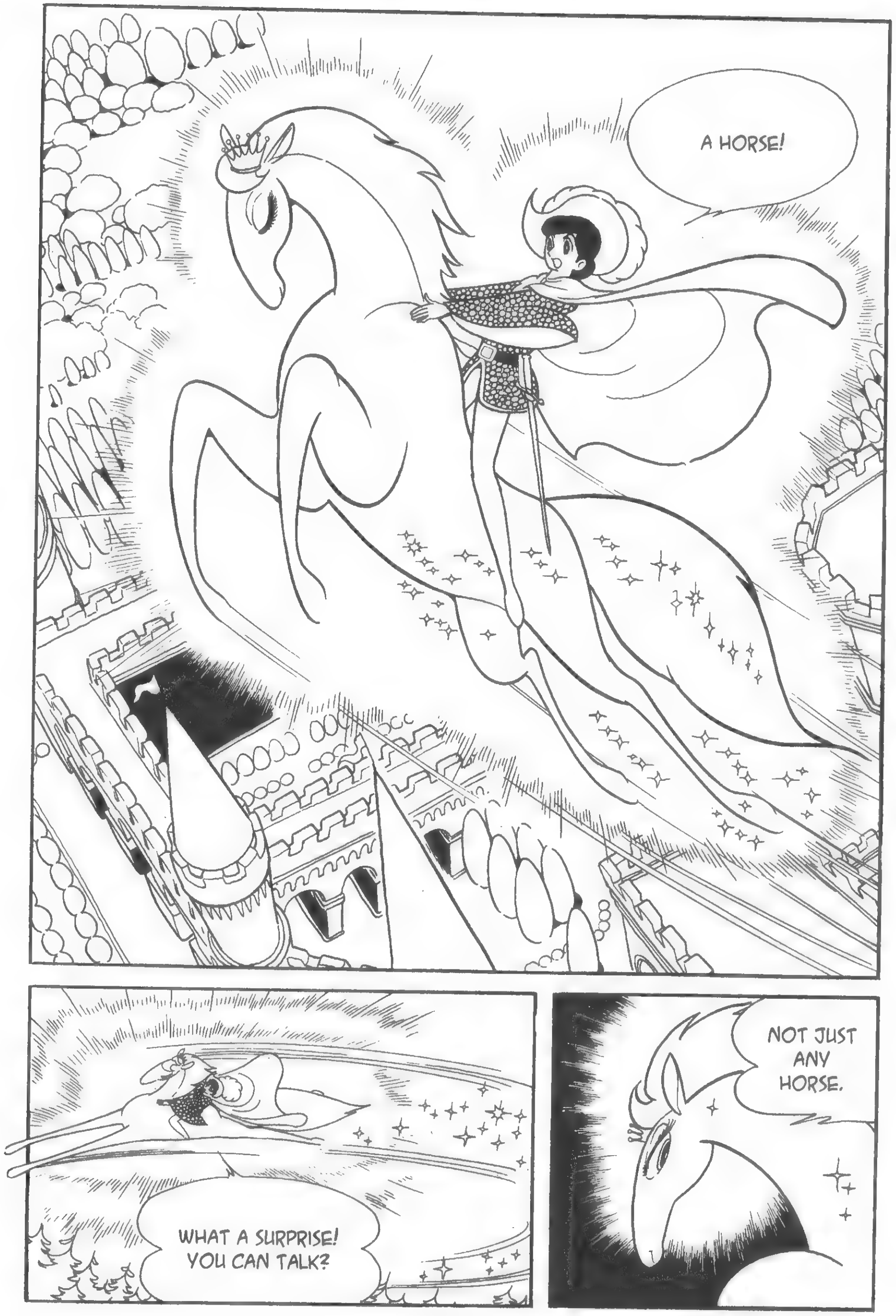
Chapter 24

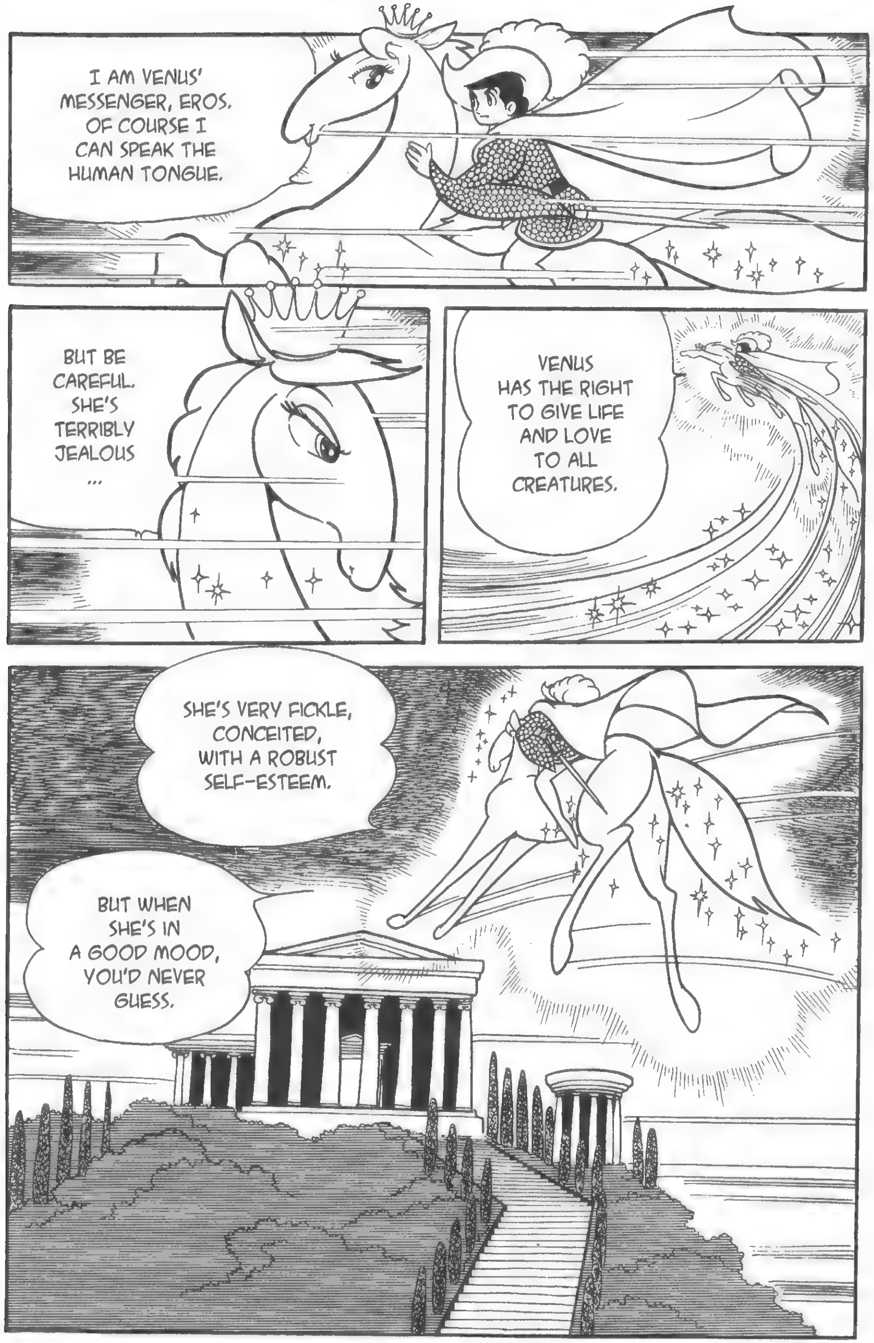
The Garden of Venus

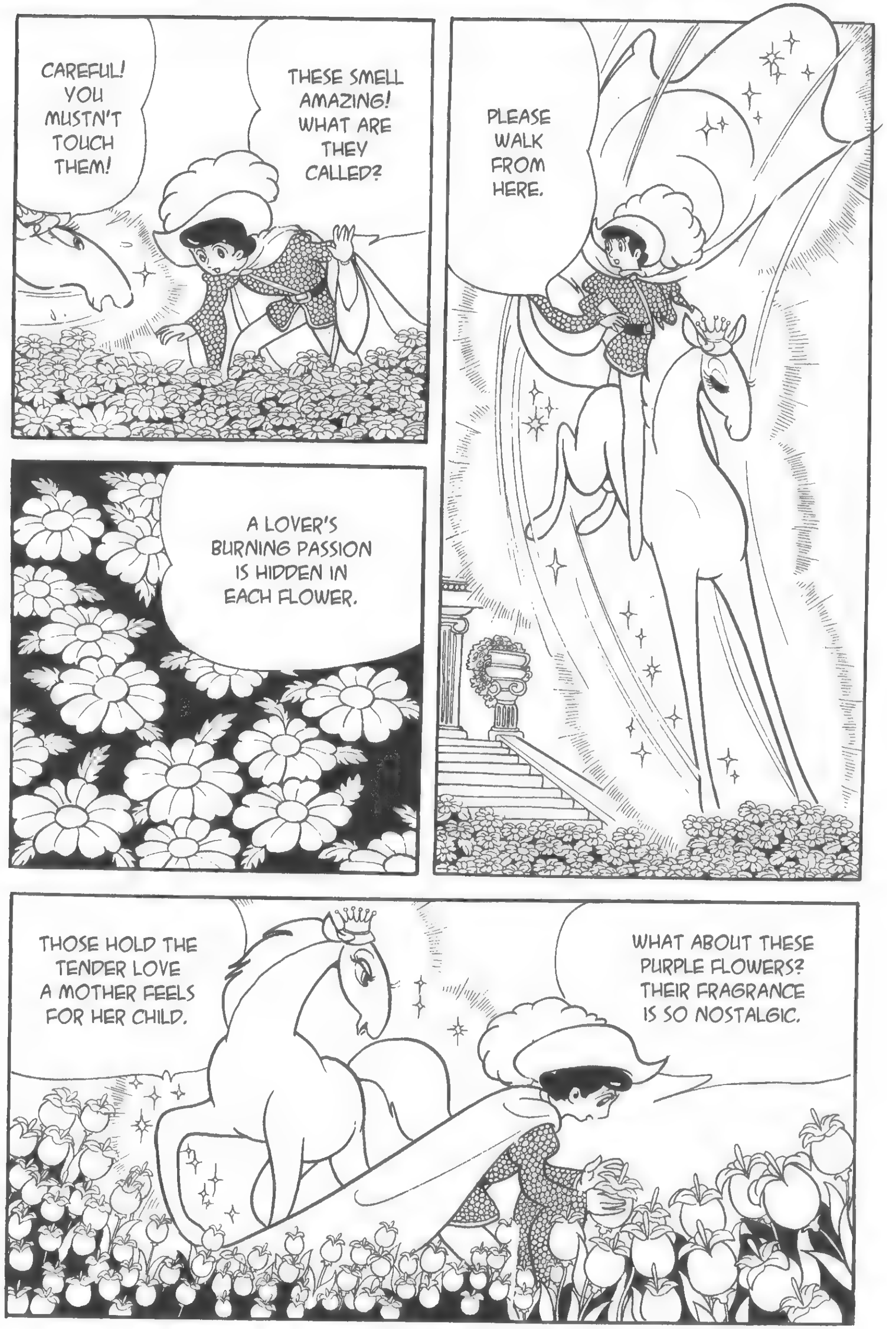

WHAT?!
THERE'S ONE WAY TO SAVE SAPPHIRE.
REALLY?!
ARE YOU SURE?
HOW? I'LL DO ANYTHING.
I ASKED MY HEAVENLY FATHER. EVEN IN HEAVEN, WE CAN'T TAMPER WITH THE LIVES OF HUMANS.
BUT HE SAYS THAT IN THE GARDEN OF VENUS, THE GODDESS OF LOVE, IS THE FLOWER OF LIFE. IF WE SECRETLY GET THAT FLOWER, SHE MIGHT BE RESUSCITATED!

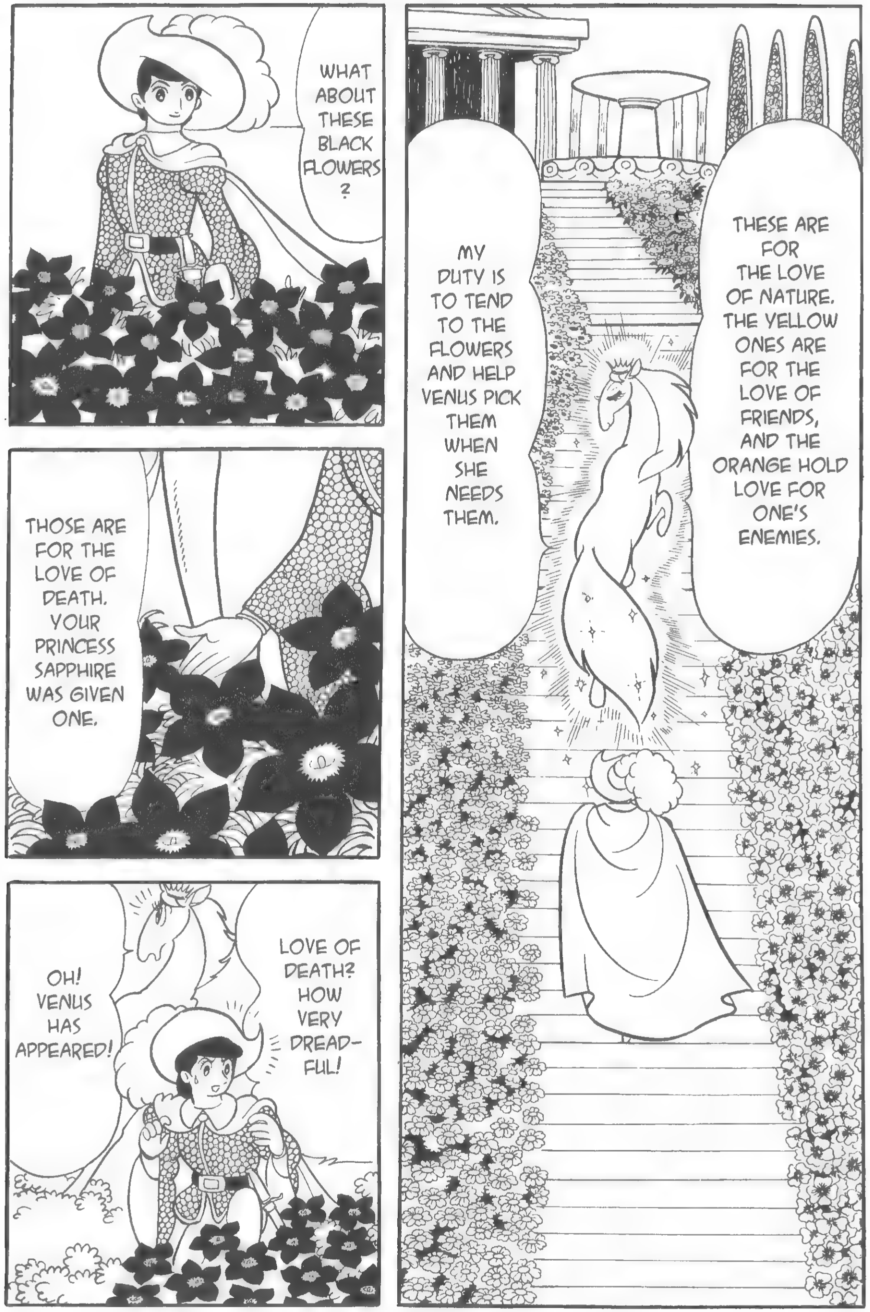

SO I ASKED VENUS, AND SHE SAID THE ONE WHO LOVES HER MOST SHOULD GET THE FLOWER.
I'LL GO. I'D GIVE MY LIFE TO SAVE SAPPHIRE.
NO, MILADY, I SHOULD GO. MEN ARE MORE SUITED TO DANGEROUS MISSIONS.
I'M GIVING YOU YOUR GIRL HEART, SAPPHIRE. WHEN YOU WAKE, YOU'LL BE A REAL GIRL.
OH! VENUS' MESSENGER! PREPARE THE WAY!

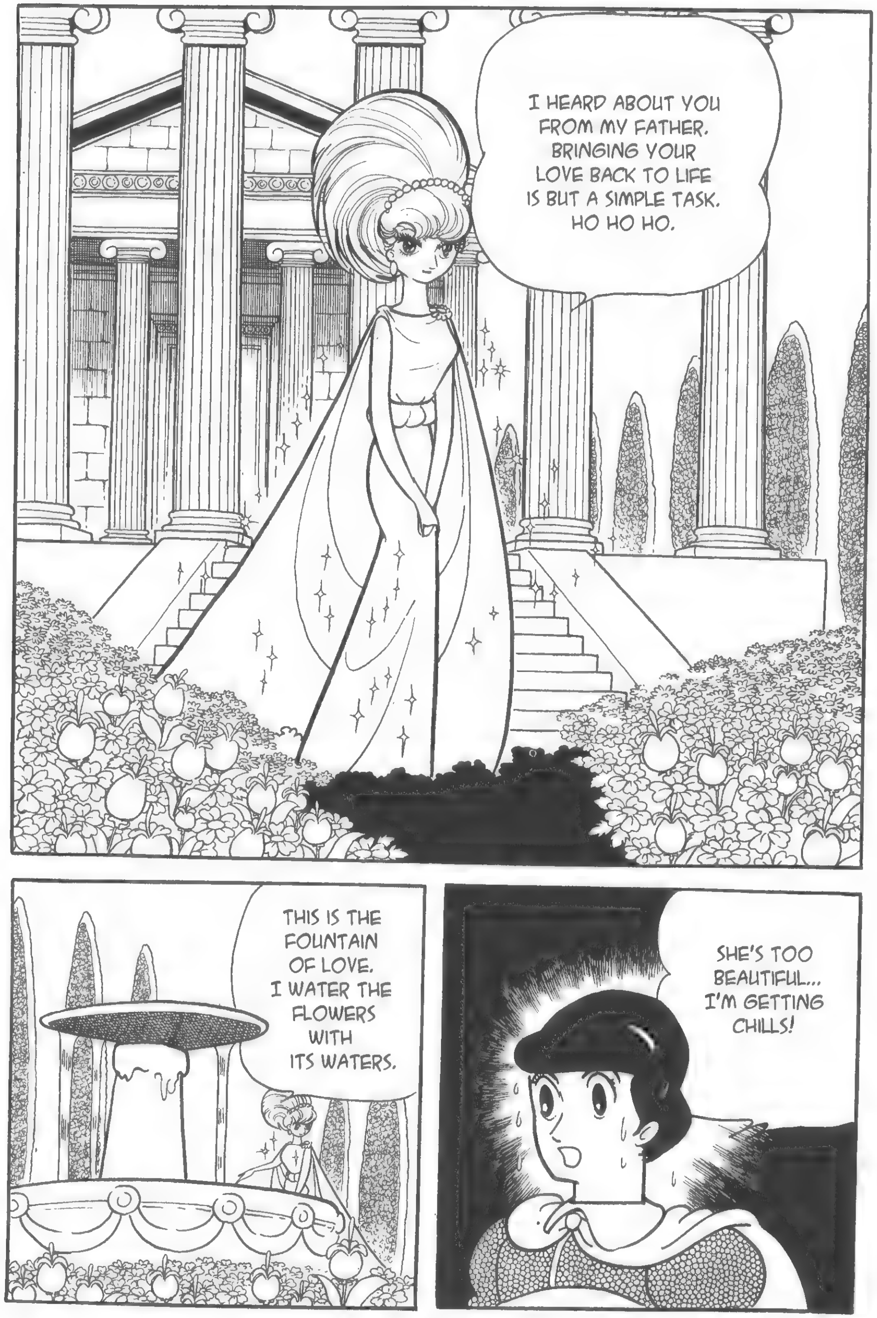

I AM EROS.
I'VE COME TO LEAD ONE OF YOU TO THE GARDEN OF VENUS.
SO BRIGHT!
OW! MY NECK!
I'LL GO, BUT... HOW?
CLIMB ONTO MY BACK.
YOUR BACK? WHOA!

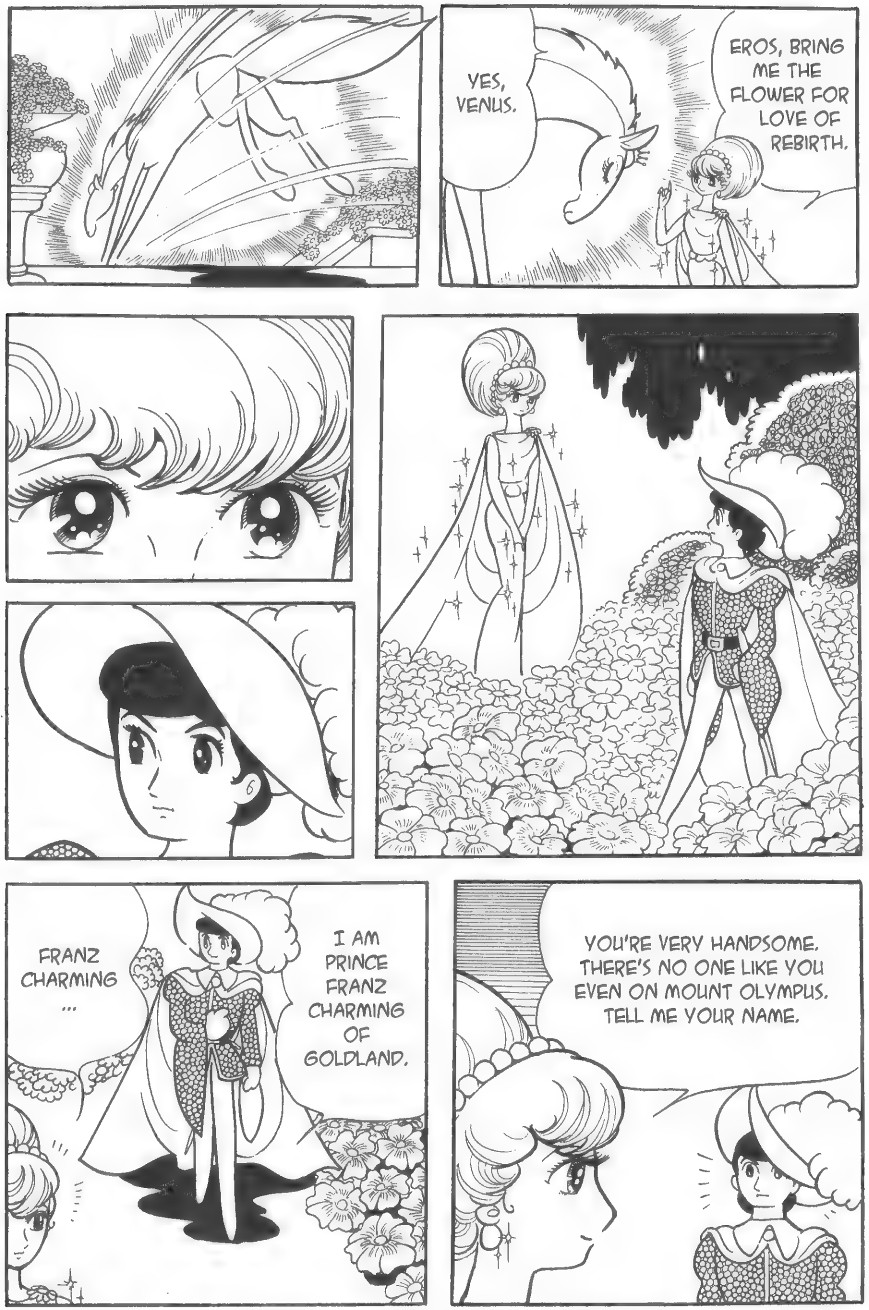

A HORSE!
NOT JUST ANY HORSE.
WHAT A SURPRISE! YOU CAN TALK?

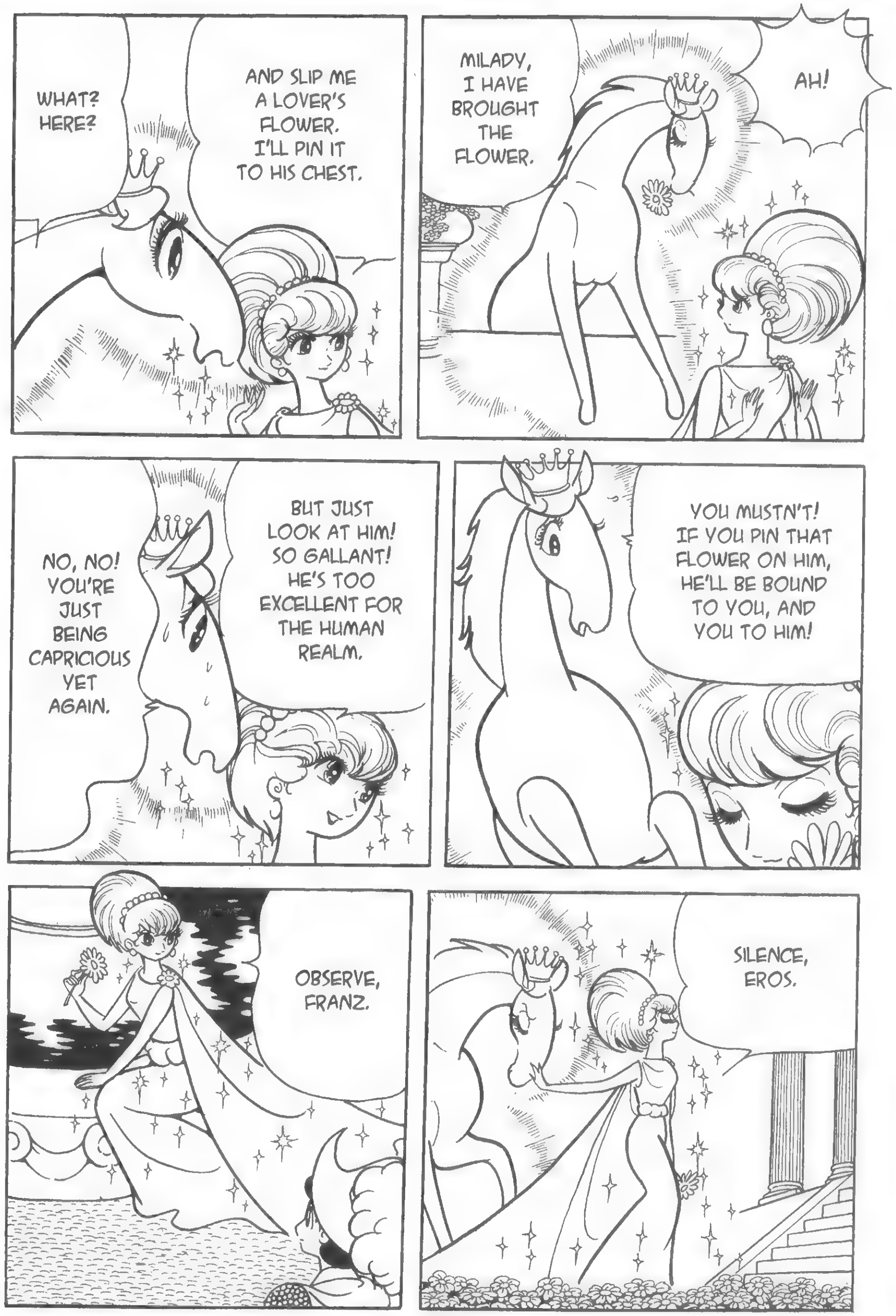

I AM VENUS' MESSENGER, EROS. OF COURSE I CAN SPEAK THE HUMAN TONGUE.
VENUS HAS THE RIGHT TO GIVE LIFE AND LOVE TO ALL CREATURES.
BUT BE CAREFUL. SHE'S TERRIBLY JEALOUS ...
SHE'S VERY FICKLE, CONCEITED, WITH A ROBUST SELF-ESTEEM.
BUT WHEN SHE'S IN A GOOD MOOD, YOU'D NEVER GUESS.

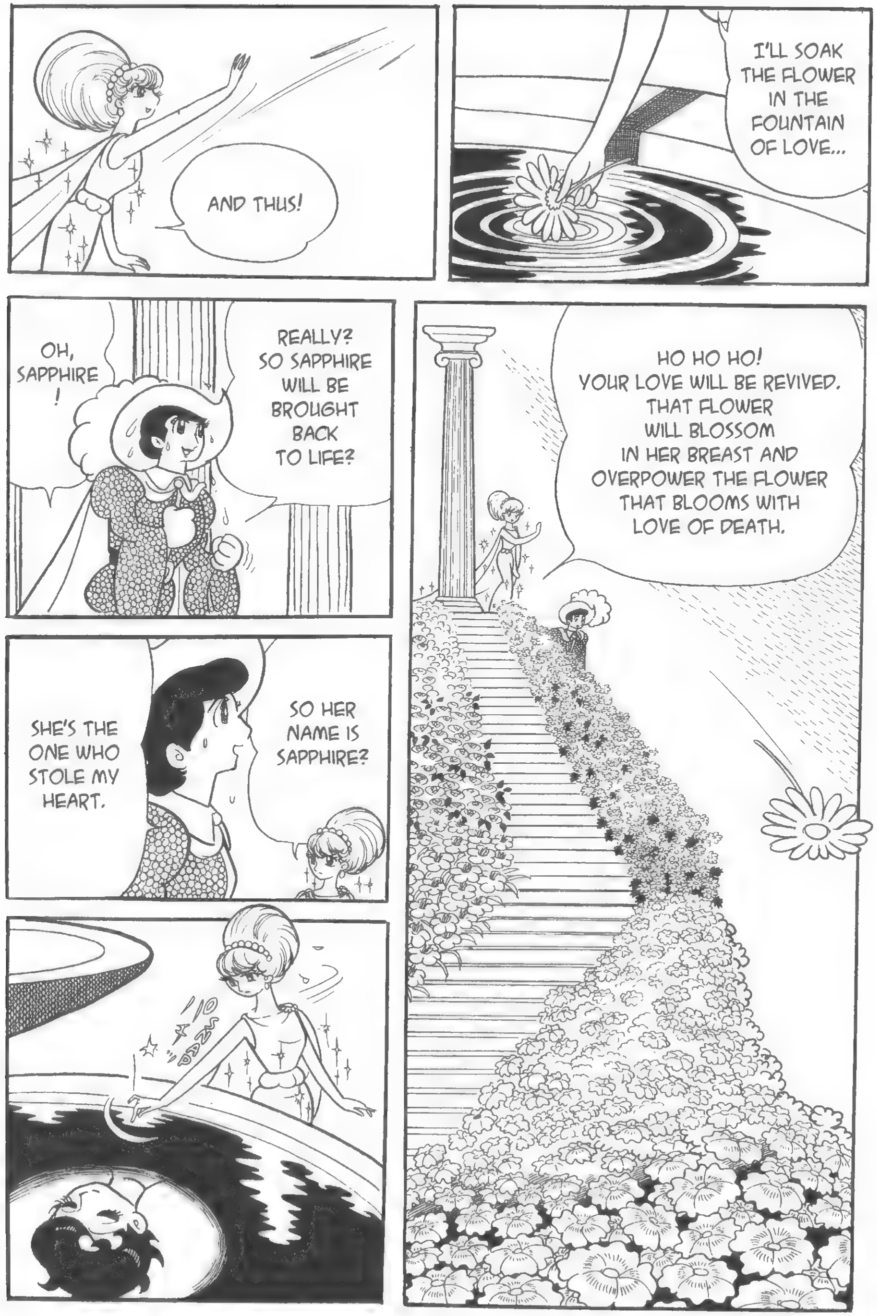

PLEASE WALK FROM HERE.
THESE SMELL AMAZING! WHAT ARE THEY CALLED?
CAREFUL! YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH THEM!
A LOVER'S BURNING PASSION IS HIDDEN IN EACH FLOWER.
WHAT ABOUT THESE PURPLE FLOWERS? THEIR FRAGRANCE IS SO NOSTALGIC.
THOSE HOLD THE TENDER LOVE A MOTHER FEELS FOR HER CHILD.

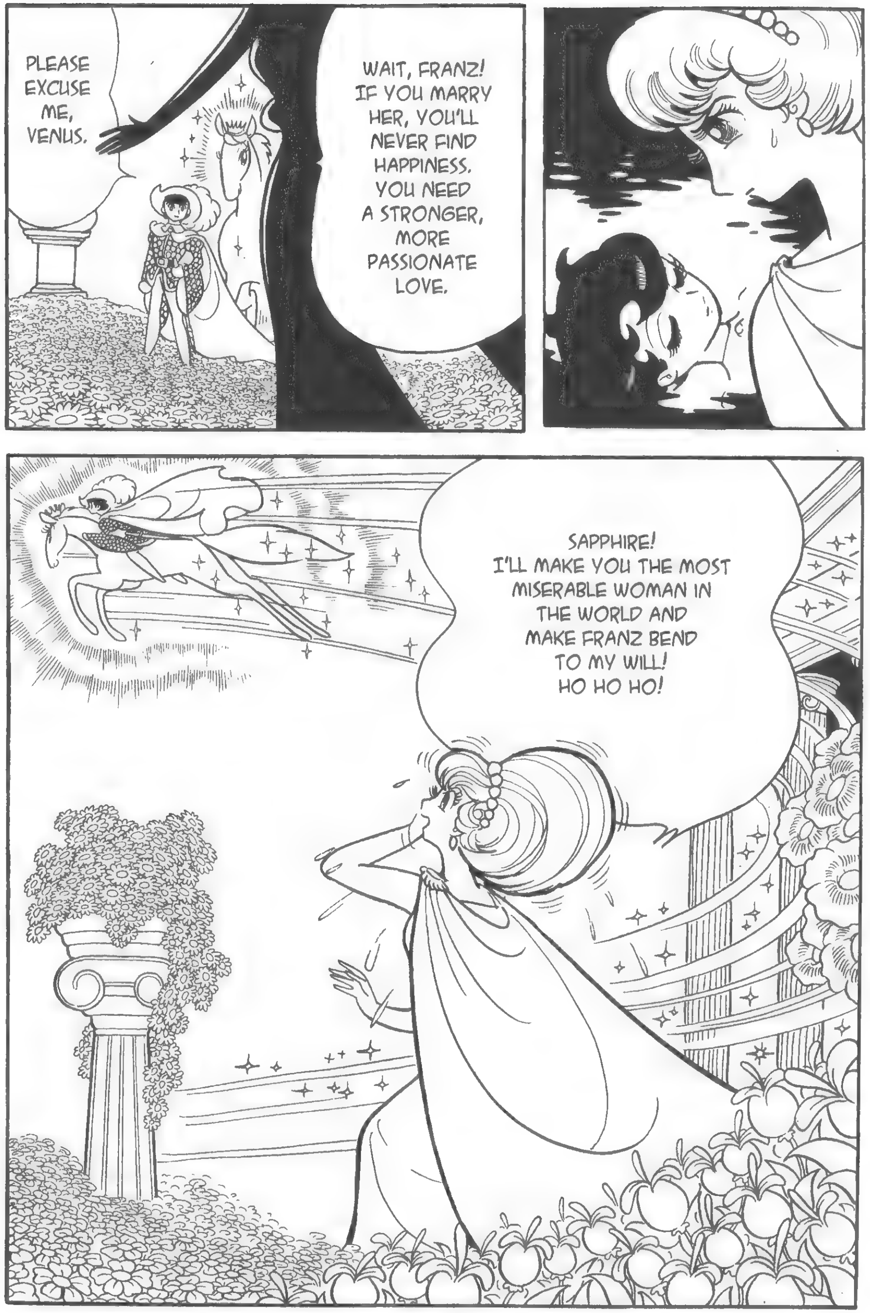

THESE ARE FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE. THE YELLOW ONES ARE FOR THE LOVE OF FRIENDS, AND THE ORANGE HOLD LOVE FOR ONE'S ENEMIES.
MY DUTY IS TO TEND TO THE FLOWERS AND HELP VENUS PICK THEM WHEN SHE NEEDS THEM.
WHAT ABOUT THESE BLACK FLOWERS?
THOSE ARE FOR THE LOVE OF DEATH. YOUR PRINCESS SAPPHIRE WAS GIVEN ONE.
LOVE OF DEATH? HOW VERY DREADFUL!
OH! VENUS HAS APPEARED!

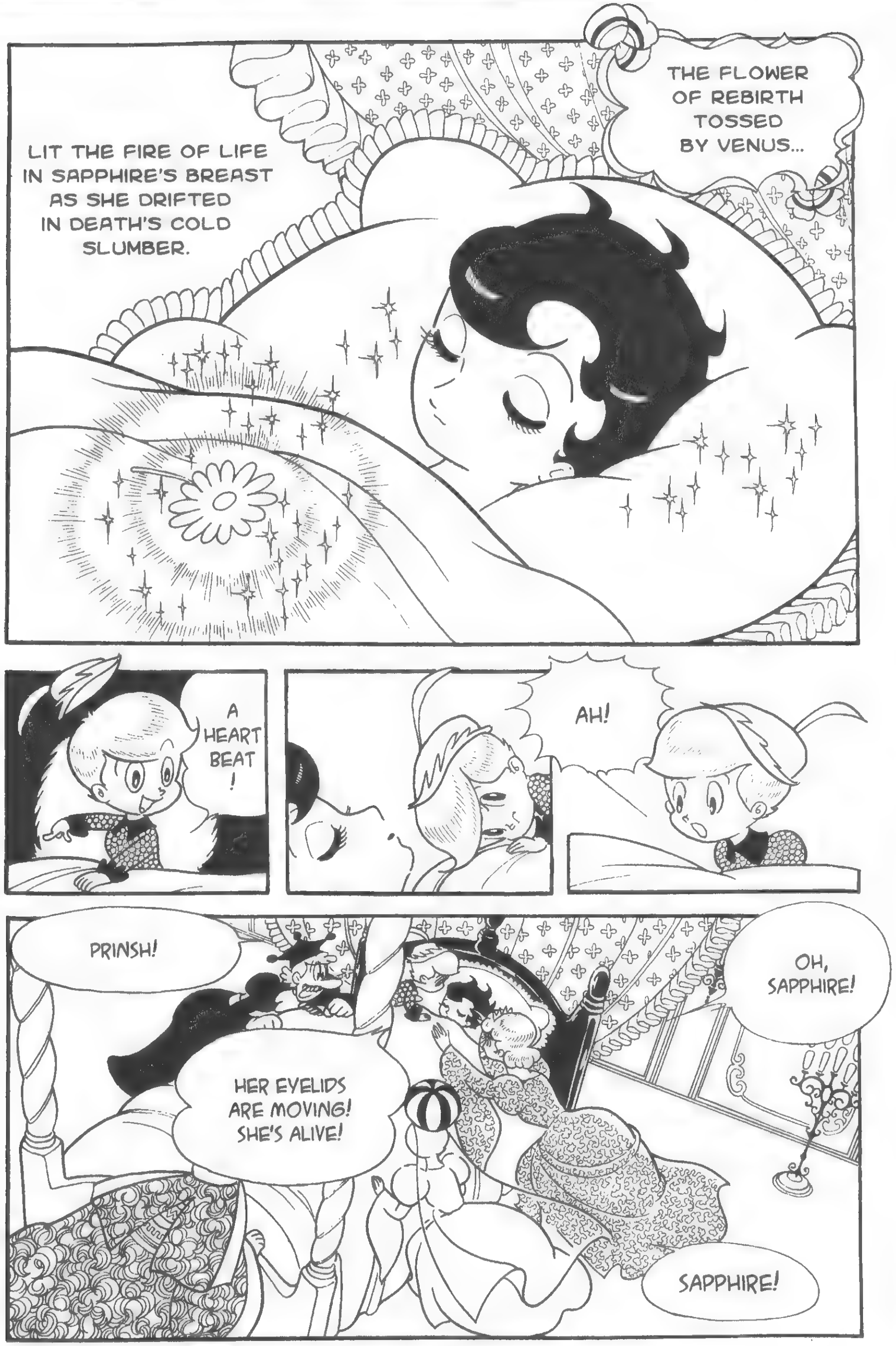

I HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM MY FATHER. BRINGING YOUR LOVE BACK TO LIFE IS BUT A SIMPLE TASK. HO HO HO.
SHE'S TOO BEAUTIFUL... I'M GETTING CHILLS!
THIS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE. I WATER THE FLOWERS WITH ITS WATERS.

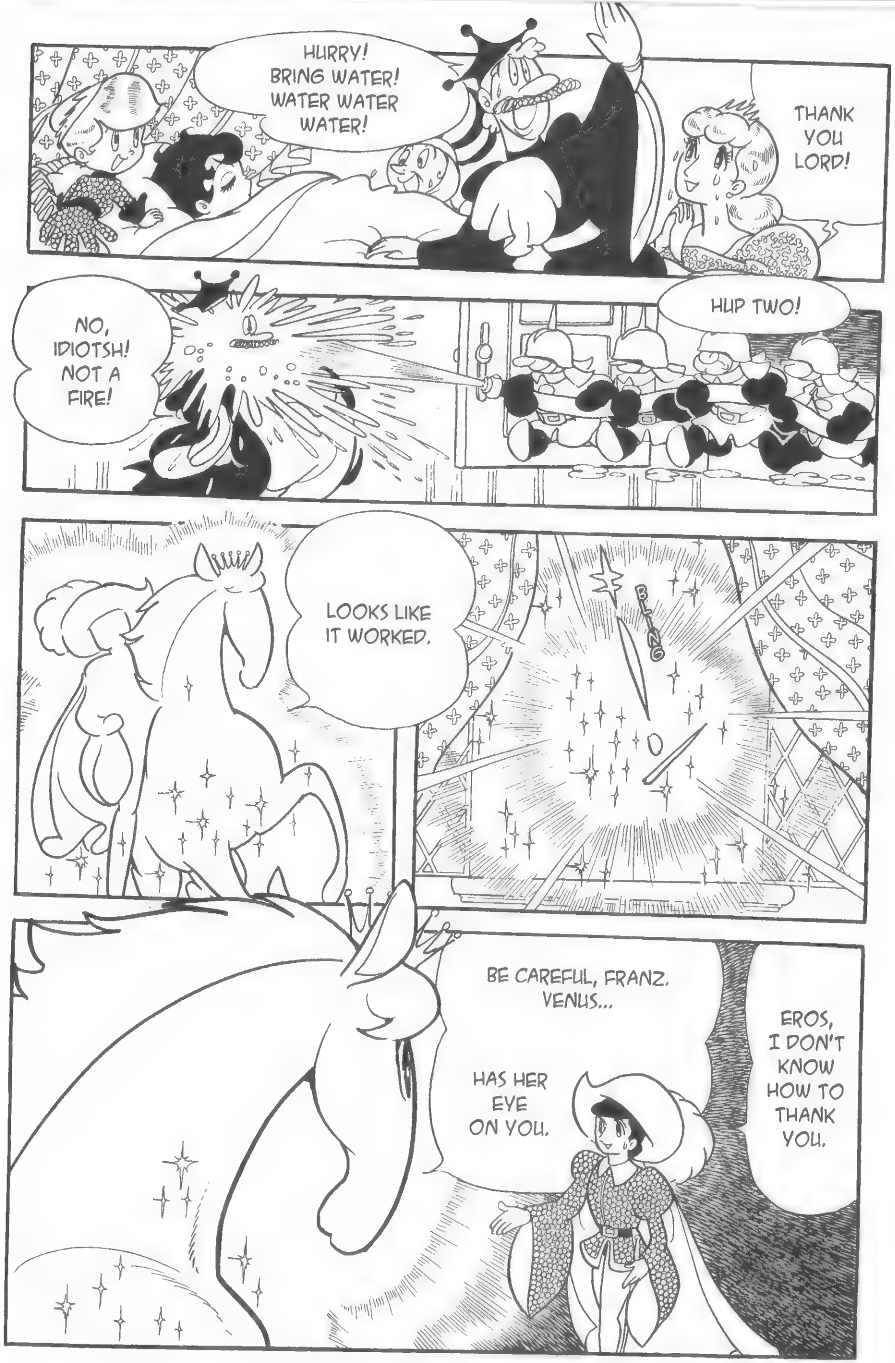

EROS, BRING ME THE FLOWER FOR LOVE OF REBIRTH.
YES, VENUS.
YOU'RE VERY HANDSOME. THERE'S NO ONE LIKE YOU EVEN ON MOUNT OLYMPUS. TELL ME YOUR NAME.
I AM PRINCE FRANZ CHARMING OF GOLDLAND.
FRANZ CHARMING ...

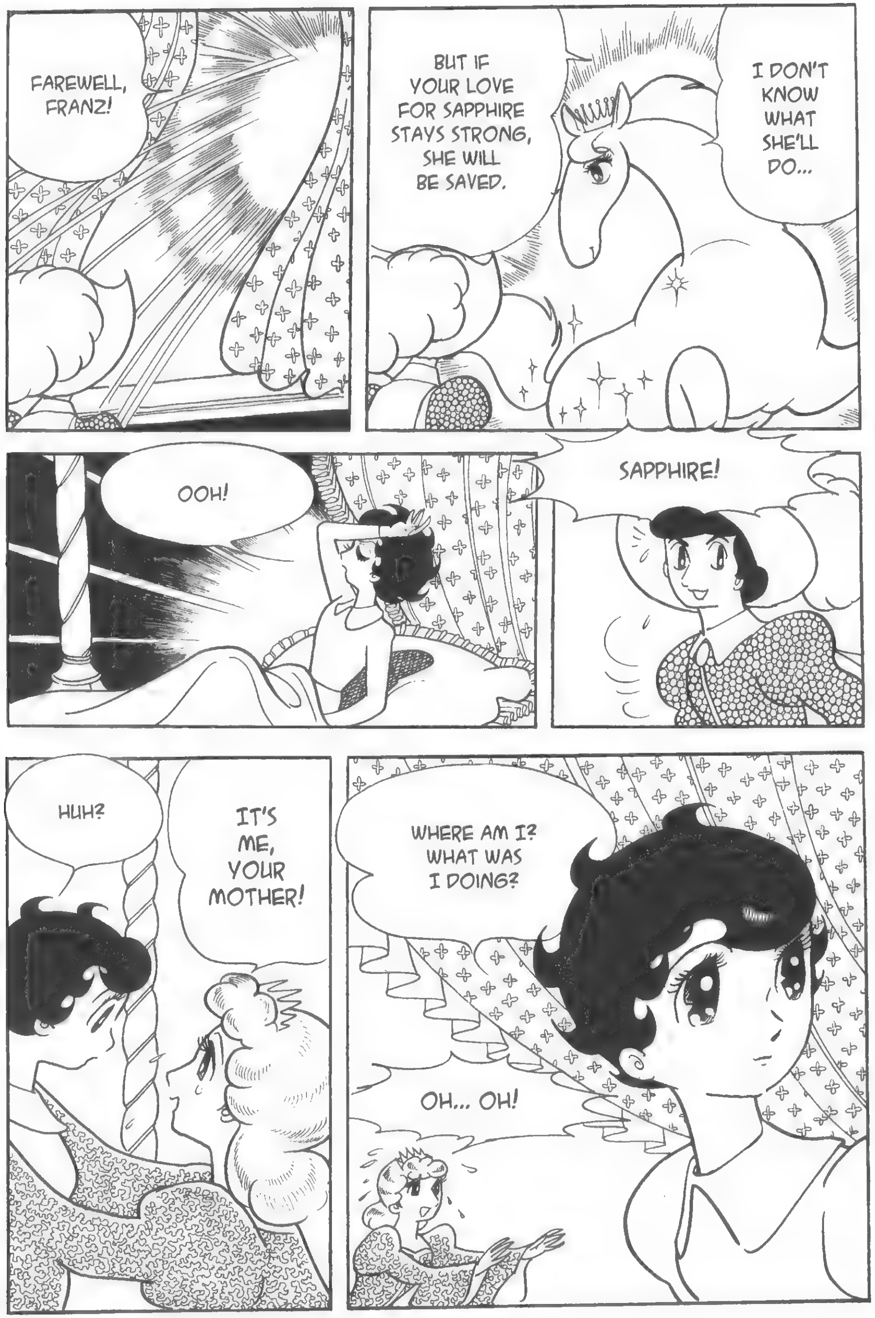

AH!
MILADY, I HAVE BROUGHT THE FLOWER.
AND SLIP ME A LOVER'S FLOWER. I'LL PIN IT TO HIS CHEST.
WHAT? HERE?
YOU MUSTN'T! IF YOU PIN THAT FLOWER ON HIM, HE'LL BE BOUND TO YOU, AND YOU TO HIM!
BUT JUST LOOK AT HIM! SO GALLANT! HE'S TOO EXCELLENT FOR THE HUMAN REALM.
NO, NO! YOU'RE JUST BEING CAPRICIOUS YET AGAIN.
SILENCE, EROS.
OBSERVE, FRANZ.

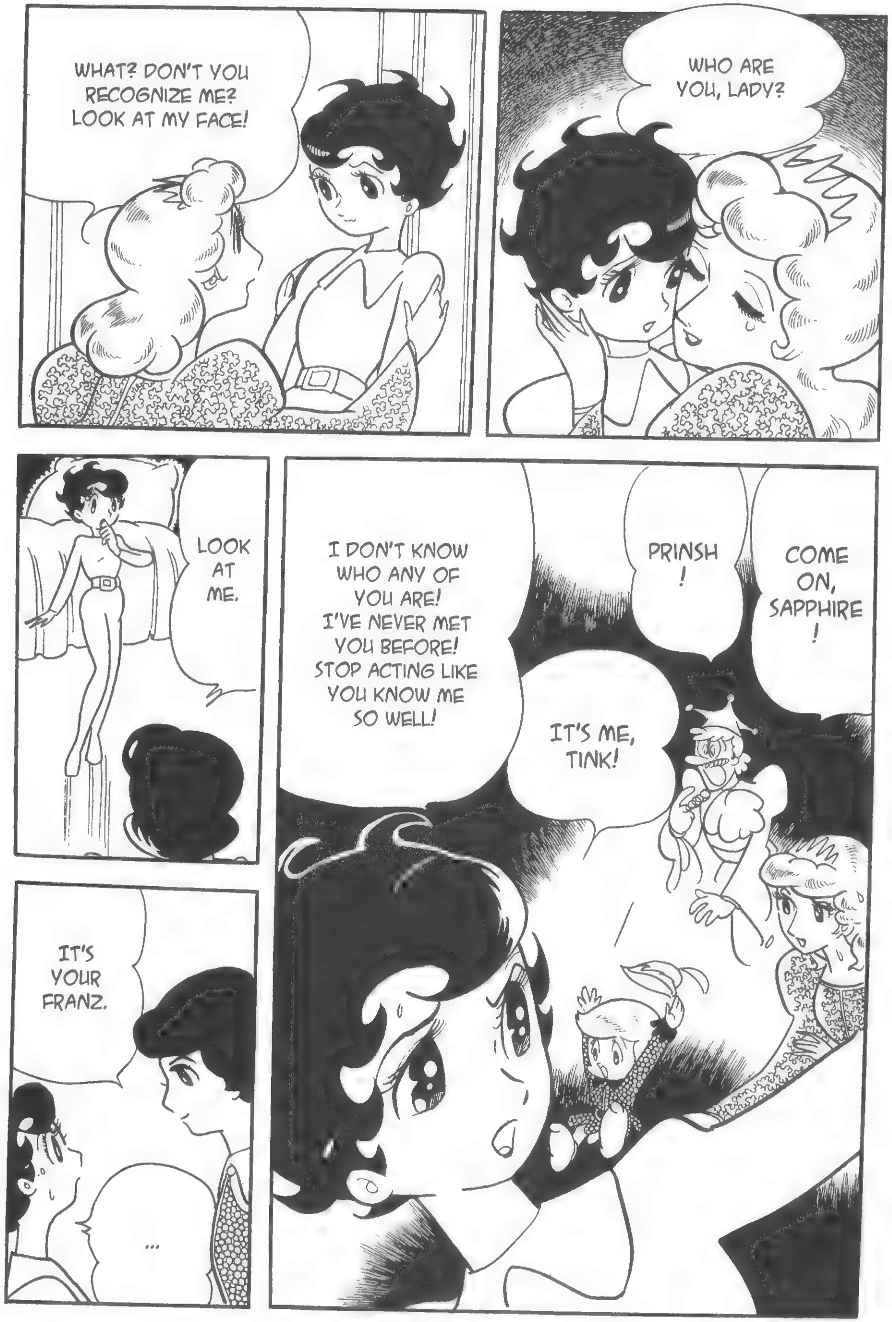

I'LL SOAK THE FLOWER IN THE FOUNTAIN OF LOVE...
AND THUS!
HO HO HO! YOUR LOVE WILL BE REVIVED. THAT FLOWER WILL BLOSSOM IN HER BREAST AND OVERPOWER THE FLOWER THAT BLOOMS WITH LOVE OF DEATH.
REALLY? SO SAPPHIRE WILL BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE?
OH, SAPPHIRE!
SO HER NAME IS SAPPHIRE?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO STOLE MY HEART.

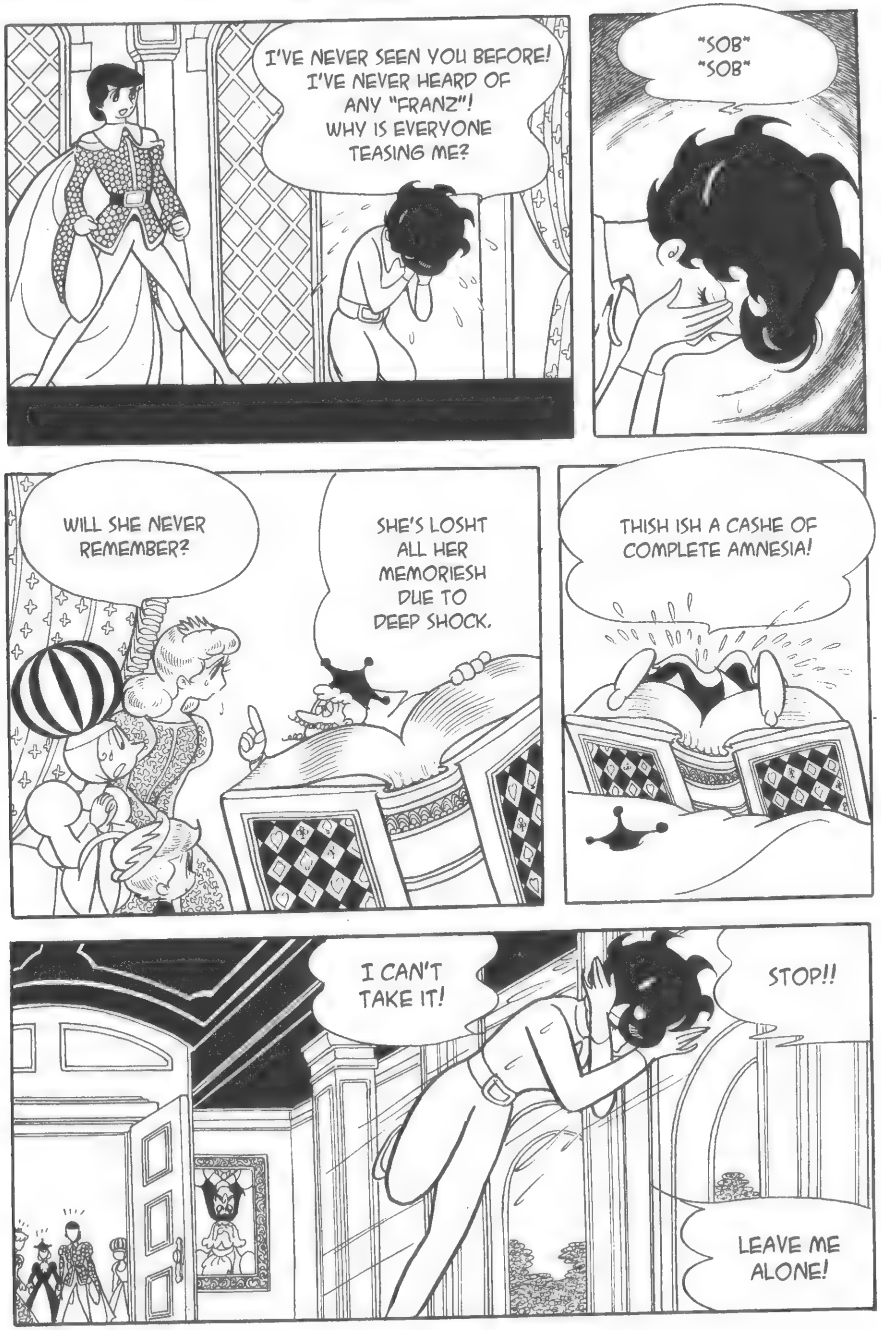

WAIT, FRANZ! IF YOU MARRY HER, YOU'LL NEVER FIND HAPPINESS. YOU NEED A STRONGER, MORE PASSIONATE LOVE.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME, VENUS.
SAPPHIRE! I'LL MAKE YOU THE MOST MISERABLE WOMAN IN THE WORLD AND MAKE FRANZ BEND TO MY WILL! HO HO HO!

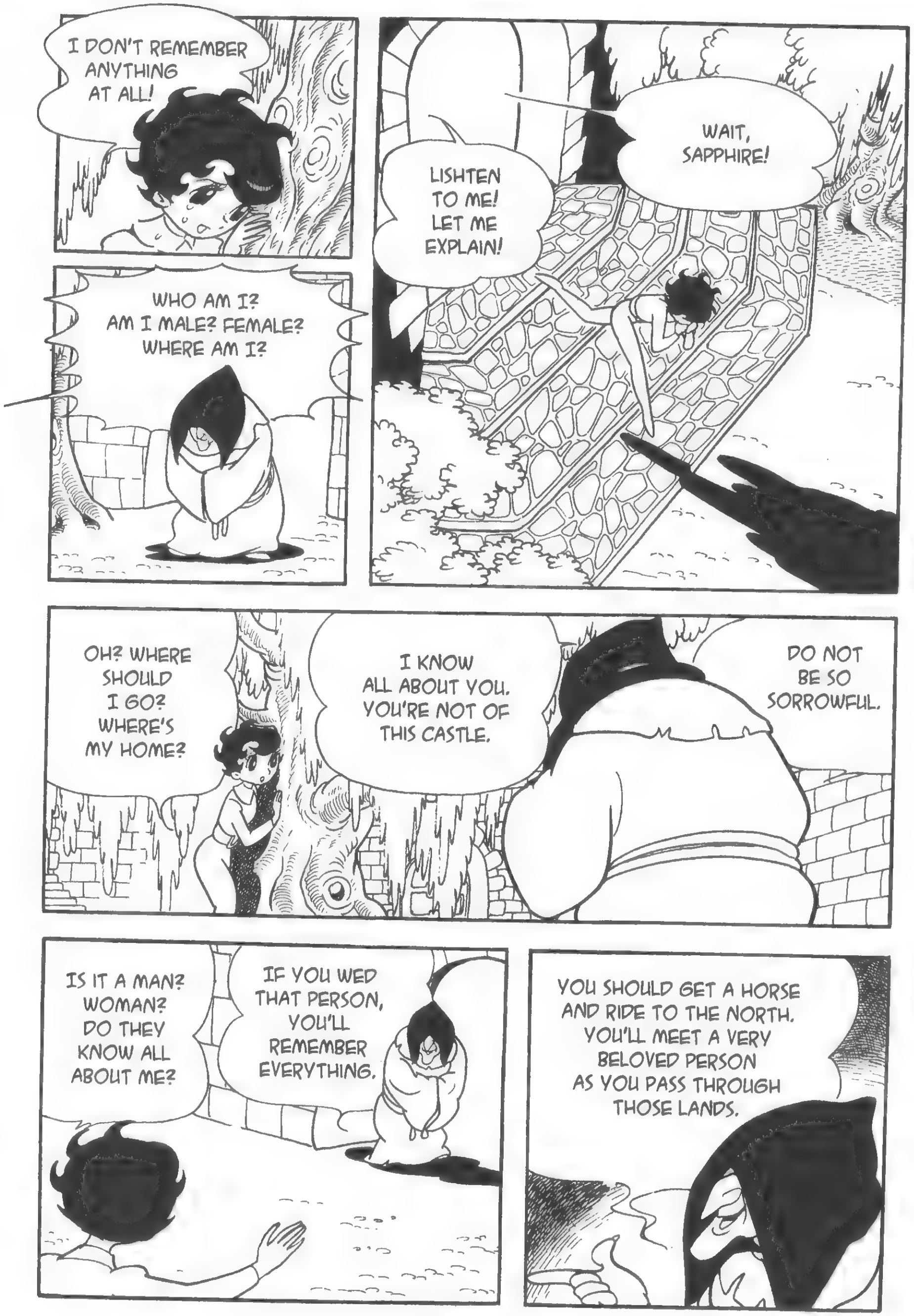

THE FLOWER OF REBIRTH TOSSED BY VENUS...
LIT THE FIRE OF LIFE IN SAPPHIRE'S BREAST AS SHE DRIFTED IN DEATH'S COLD SLUMBER.
AH!
A HEART BEAT!
OH, SAPPHIRE!
PRINSH!
HER EYELIDS ARE MOVING! SHE'S ALIVE!
SAPPHIRE!

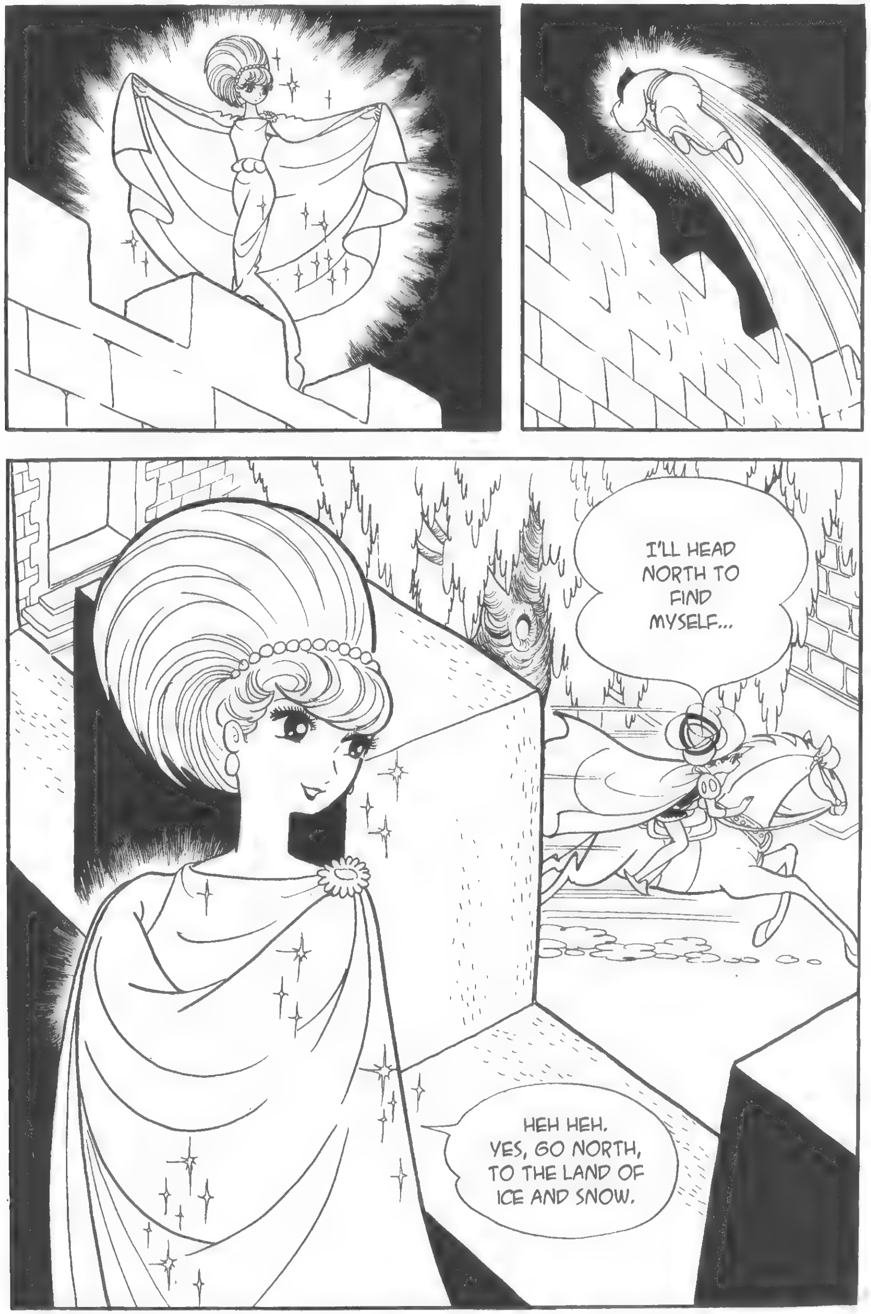

THANK YOU LORD!
HURRY! BRING WATER! WATER WATER WATER!
HUP TWO!
NO, IDIOTSH! NOT A FIRE!
BLING
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKED.
EROS, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.
BE CAREFUL, FRANZ. VENUS...
HAS HER EYE ON YOU.

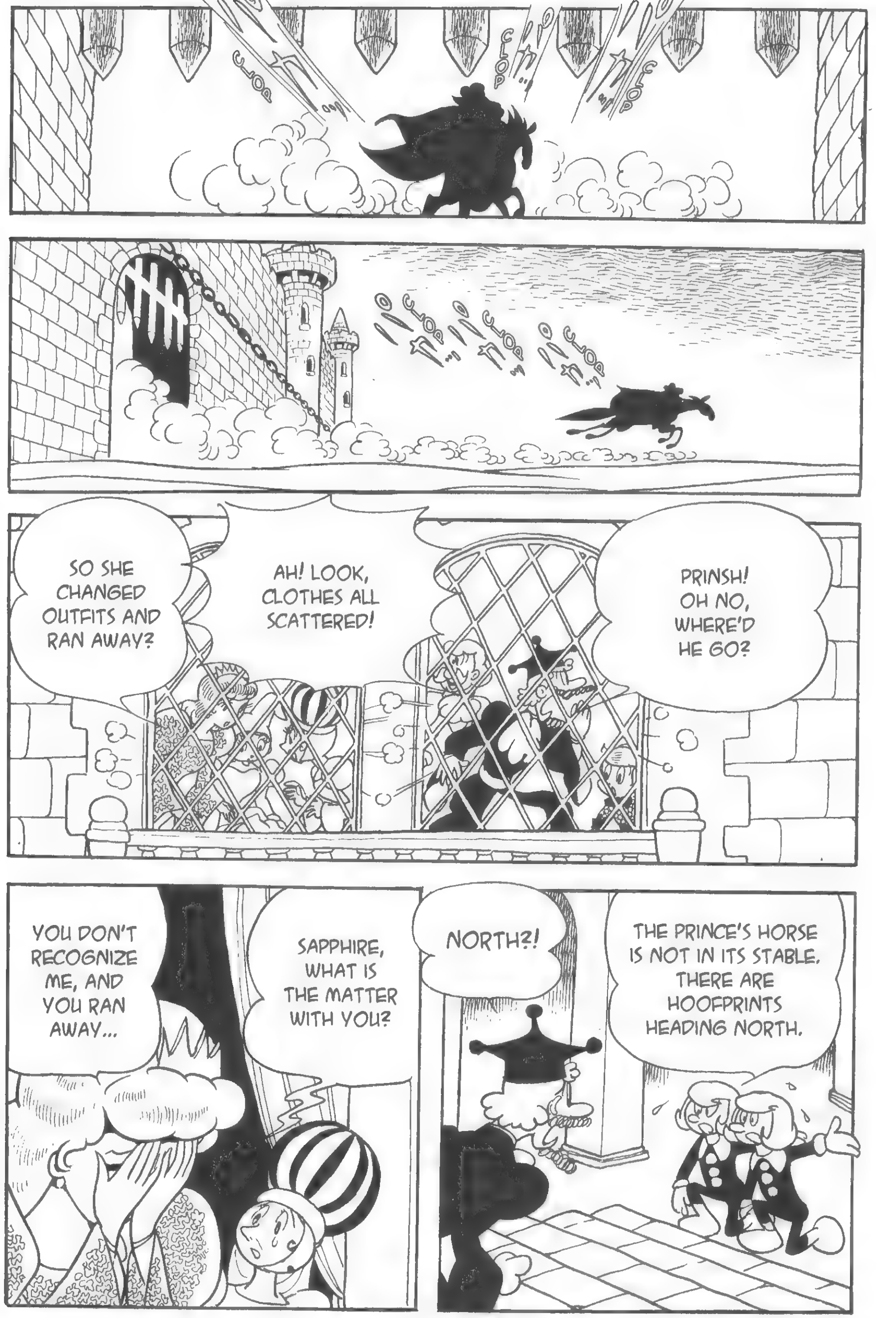

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'LL DO...
BUT IF YOUR LOVE FOR SAPPHIRE STAYS STRONG, SHE WILL BE SAVED.
FAREWELL, FRANZ!
SAPPHIRE!
OOH!
WHERE AM I? WHAT WAS I DOING?
OH... OH!
IT'S ME, YOUR MOTHER!
HUH?

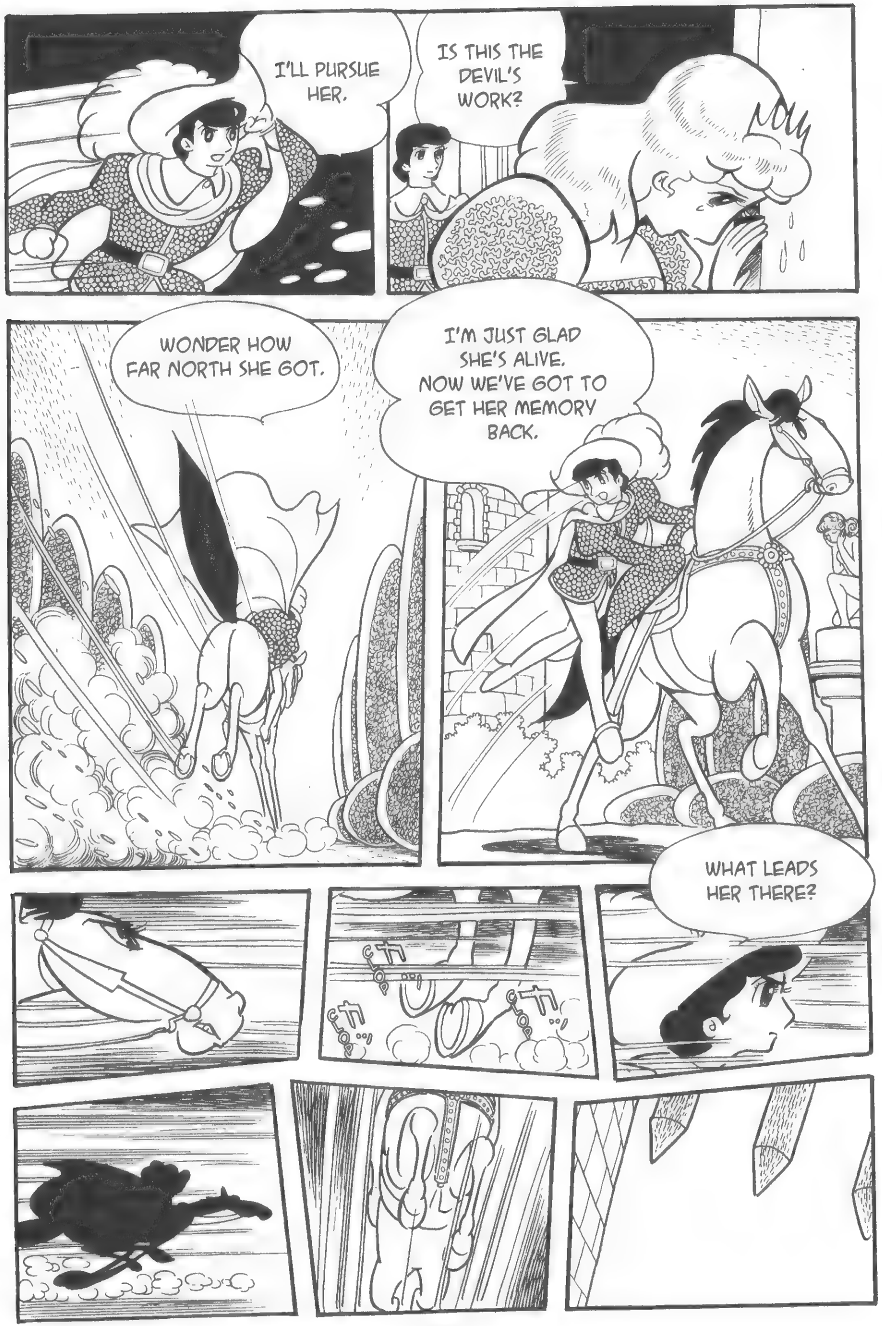

WHO ARE YOU, LADY?
WHAT? DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? LOOK AT MY FACE!
COME ON, SAPPHIRE!
PRINSH!
IT'S ME, TINK!
I DON'T KNOW WHO ANY OF YOU ARE! I'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE! STOP ACTING LIKE YOU KNOW ME SO WELL!
LOOK AT ME.
IT'S YOUR FRANZ.
...


"SOB" "SOB"
I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE! I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY "FRANZ"! WHY IS EVERYONE TEASING ME?
THISH ISH A CASHE OF COMPLETE AMNESIA!
SHE'S LOSHT ALL HER MEMORIESH DUE TO DEEP SHOCK.
WILL SHE NEVER REMEMBER?
STOP!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!
LEAVE ME ALONE!


WAIT, SAPPHIRE!
LISHTEN TO ME! LET ME EXPLAIN!
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL!
WHO AM I? AM I MALE? FEMALE? WHERE AM I?
DO NOT BE SO SORROWFUL.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE NOT OF THIS CASTLE.
OH? WHERE SHOULD I GO? WHERE'S MY HOME?
YOU SHOULD GET A HORSE AND RIDE TO THE NORTH. YOU'LL MEET A VERY BELOVED PERSON AS YOU PASS THROUGH THOSE LANDS.
IF YOU WED THAT PERSON, YOU'LL REMEMBER EVERYTHING.
IS IT A MAN? WOMAN? DO THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT ME?

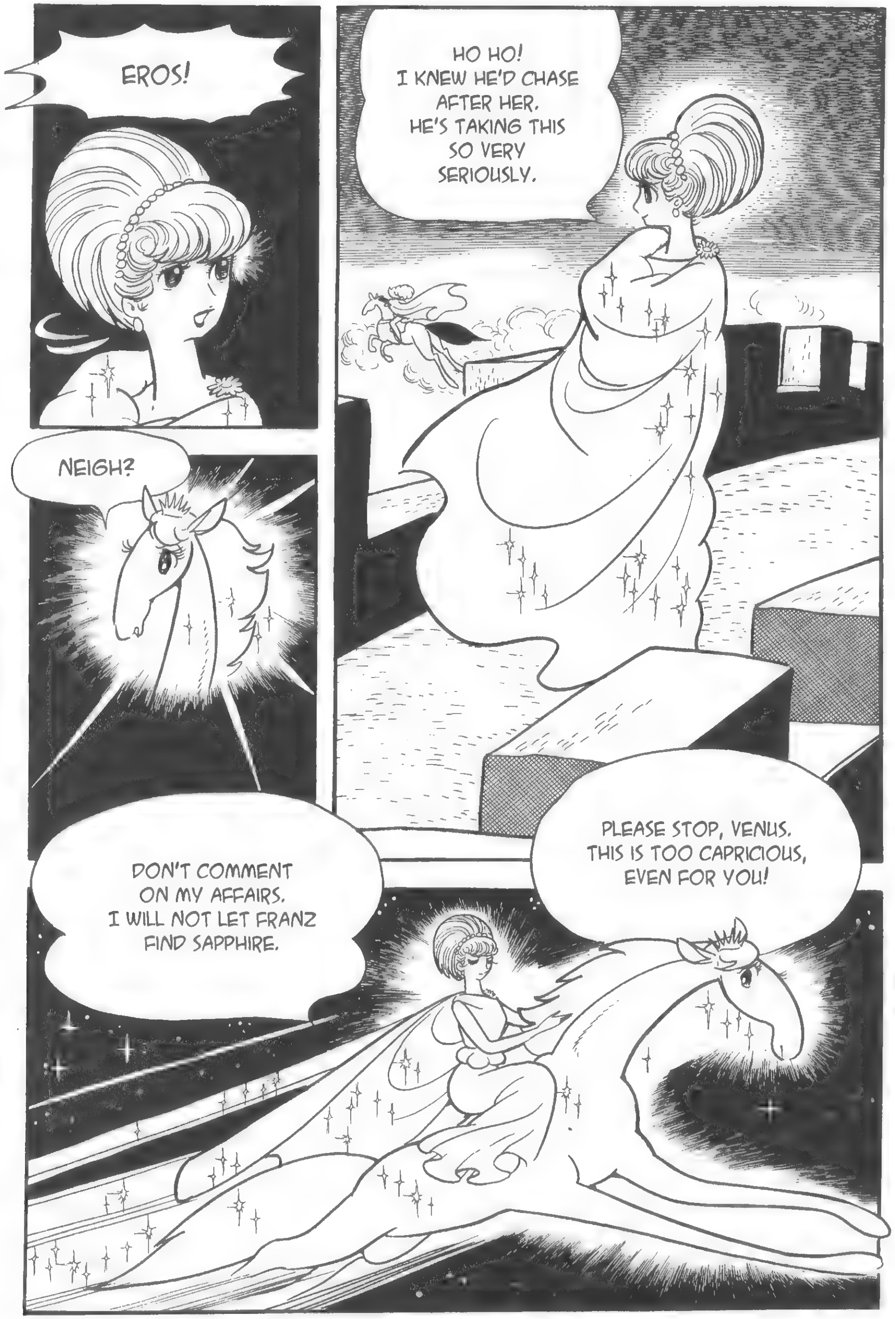

I'LL HEAD NORTH TO FIND MYSELF...
HEH HEH. YES, GO NORTH, TO THE LAND OF ICE AND SNOW.

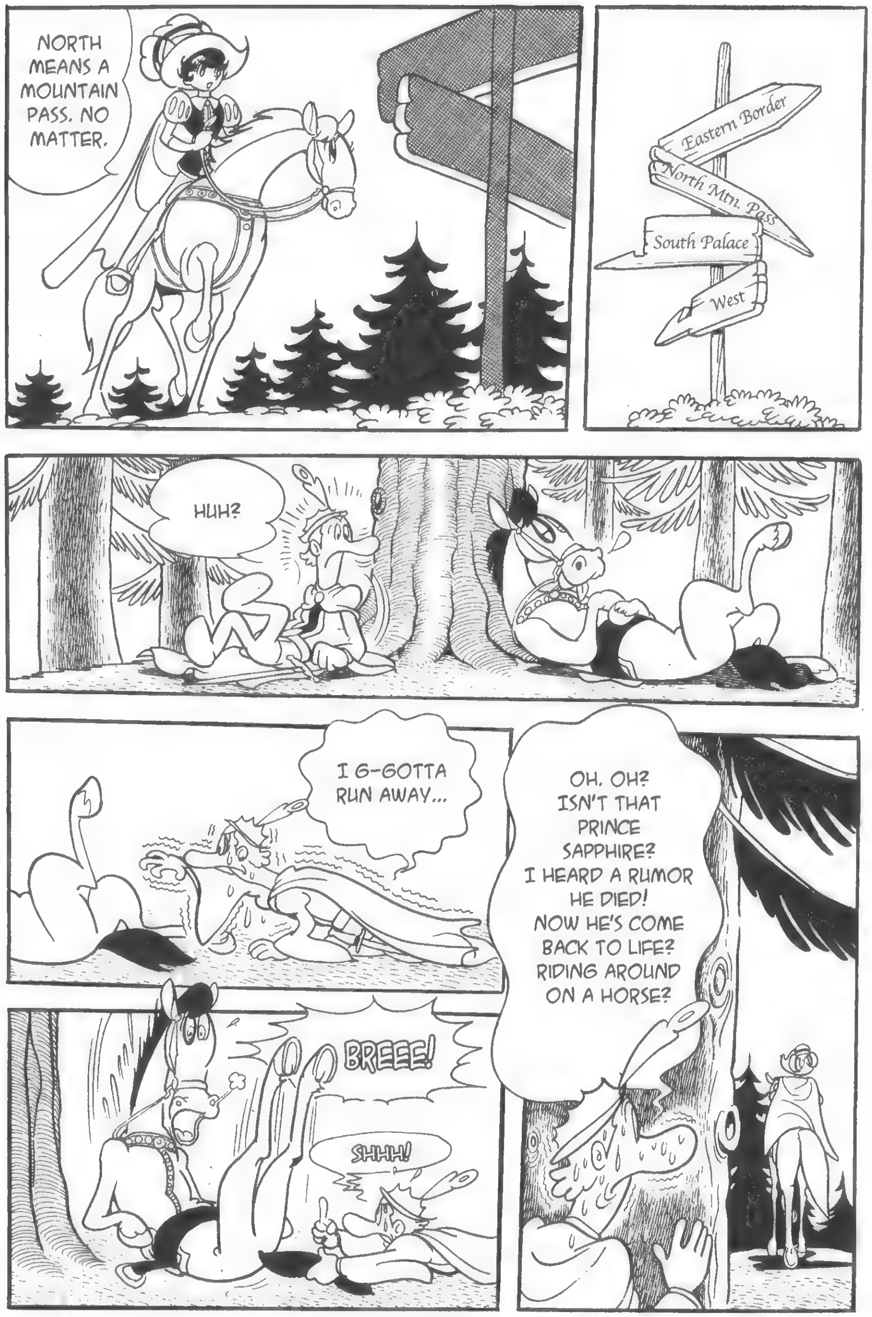

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
PRINSH! OH NO, WHERE'D HE GO?
AH! LOOK, CLOTHES ALL SCATTERED!
SO SHE CHANGED OUTFITS AND RAN AWAY?
THE PRINCE'S HORSE IS NOT IN ITS STABLE. THERE ARE HOOFPRINTS HEADING NORTH.
NORTH?!
SAPPHIRE, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME, AND YOU RAN AWAY...

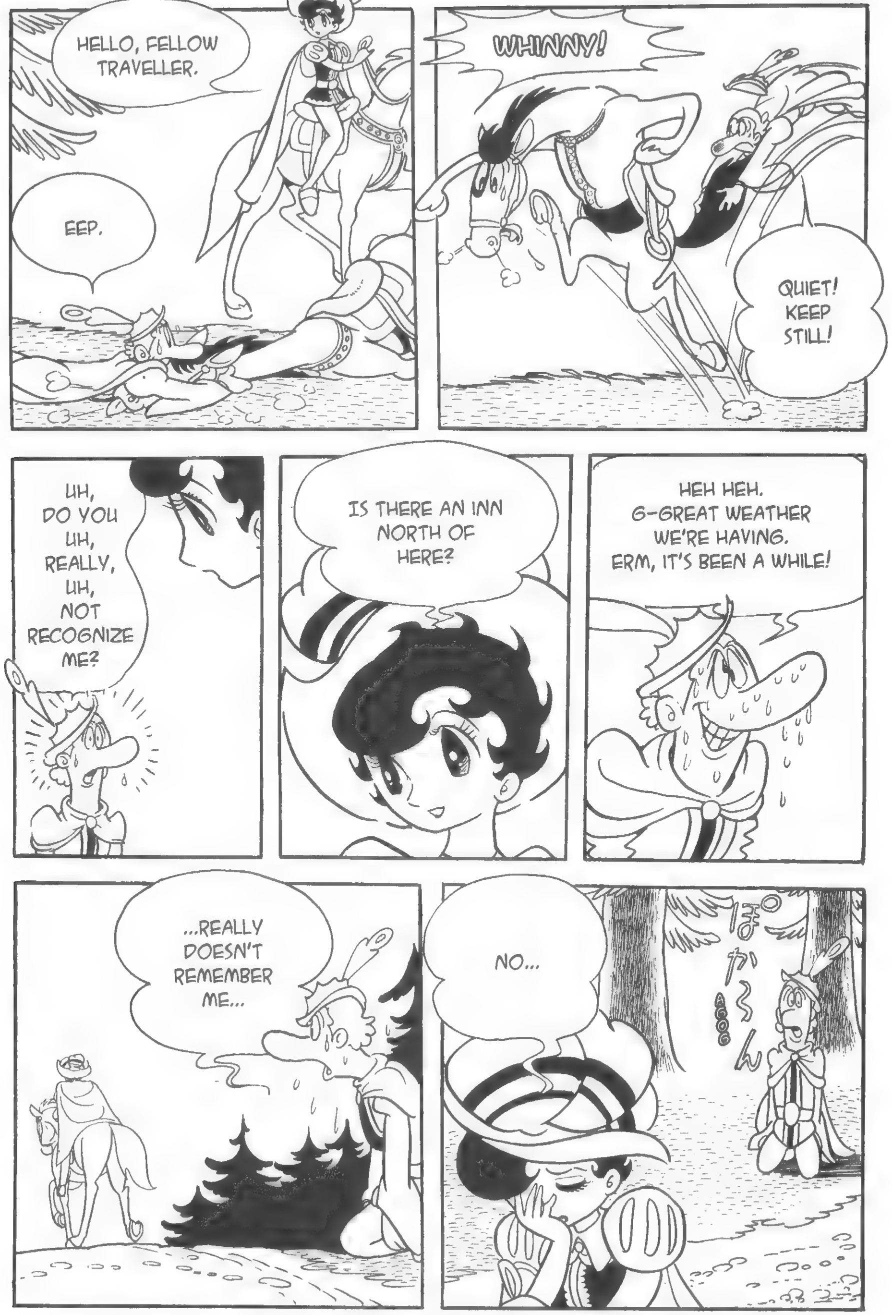

IS THIS THE DEVIL'S WORK?
I'LL PURSUE HER.
I'M JUST GLAD SHE'S ALIVE. NOW WE'VE GOT TO GET HER MEMORY BACK.
WONDER HOW FAR NORTH SHE GOT.
WHAT LEADS HER THERE?
CLOP
CLOP

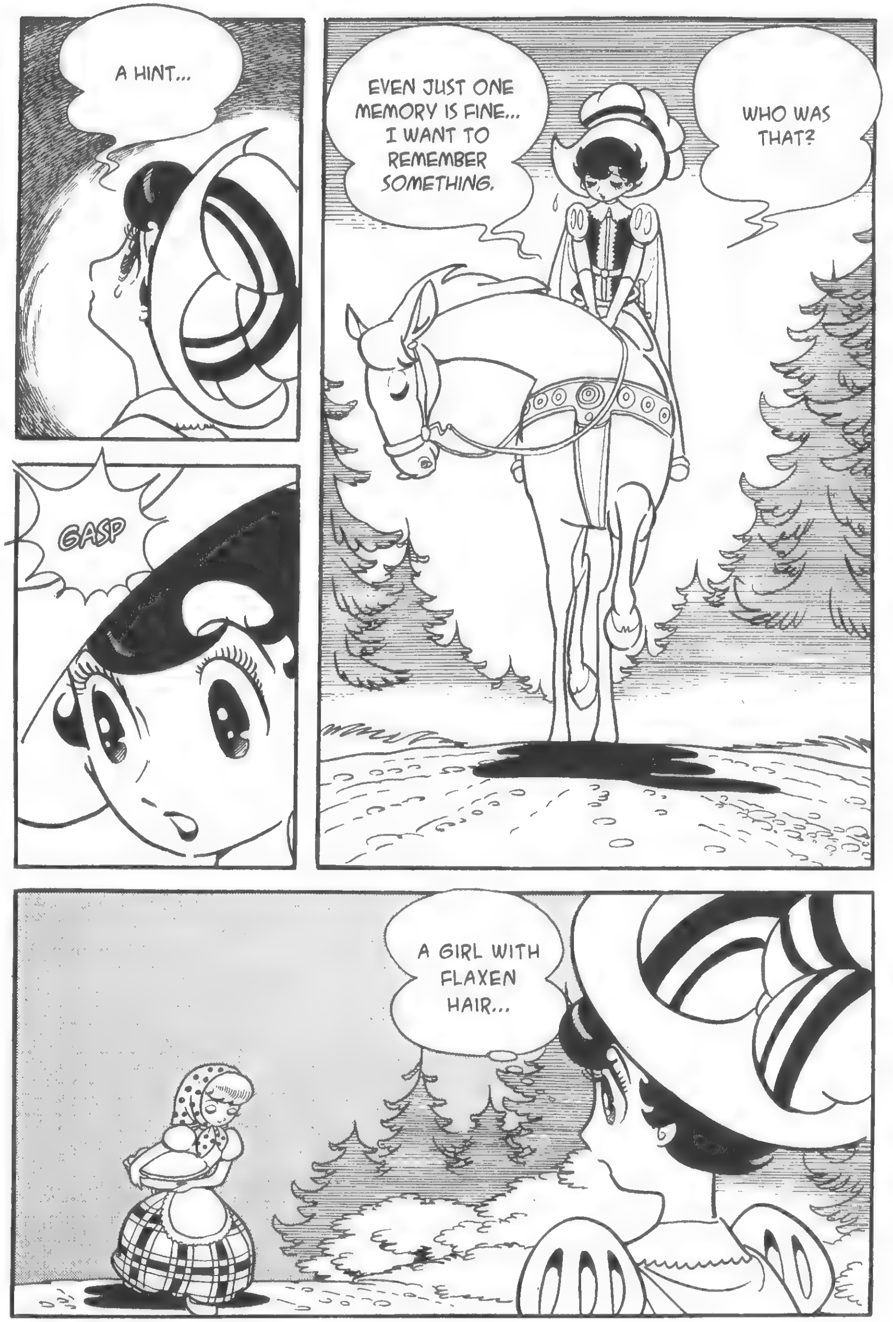
Chapter 25

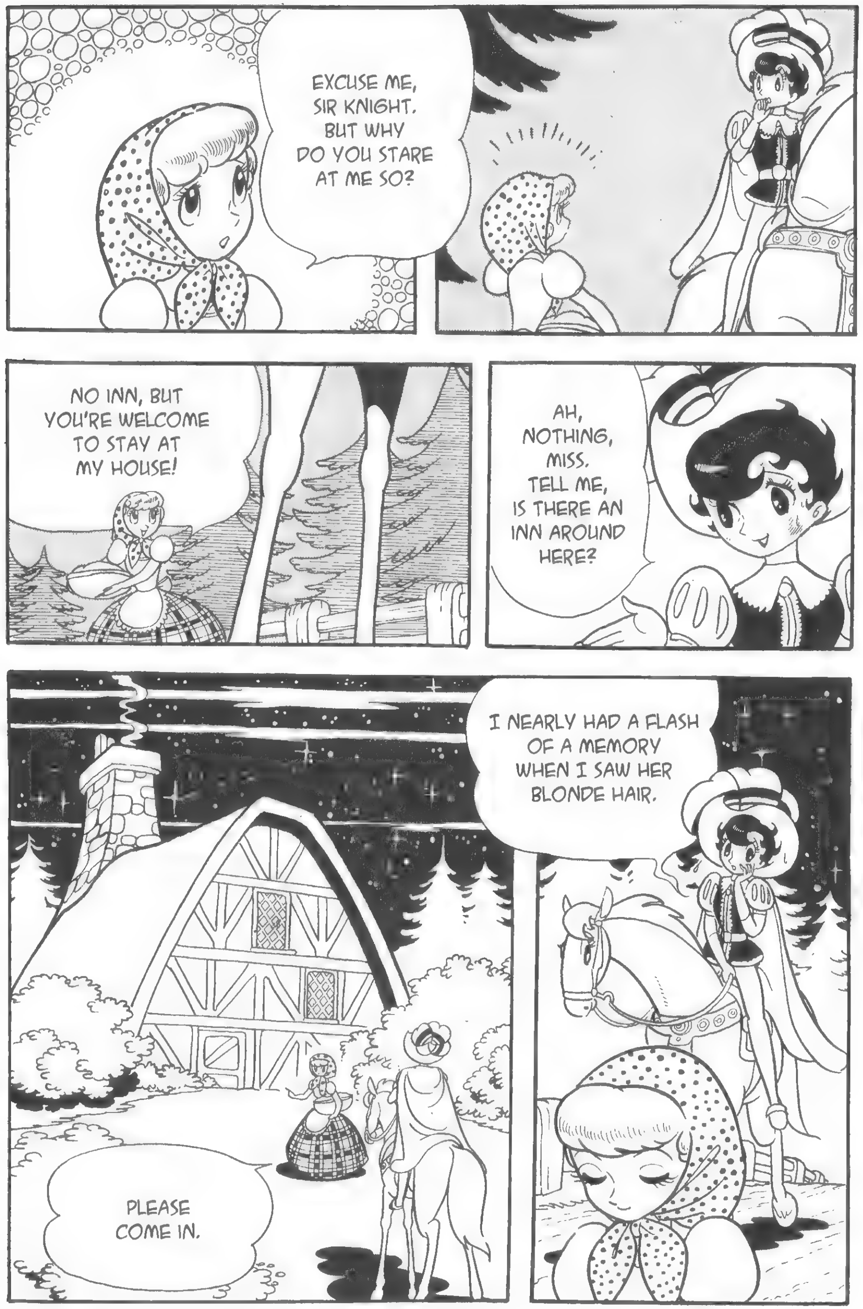
Mad Marquis Oolong

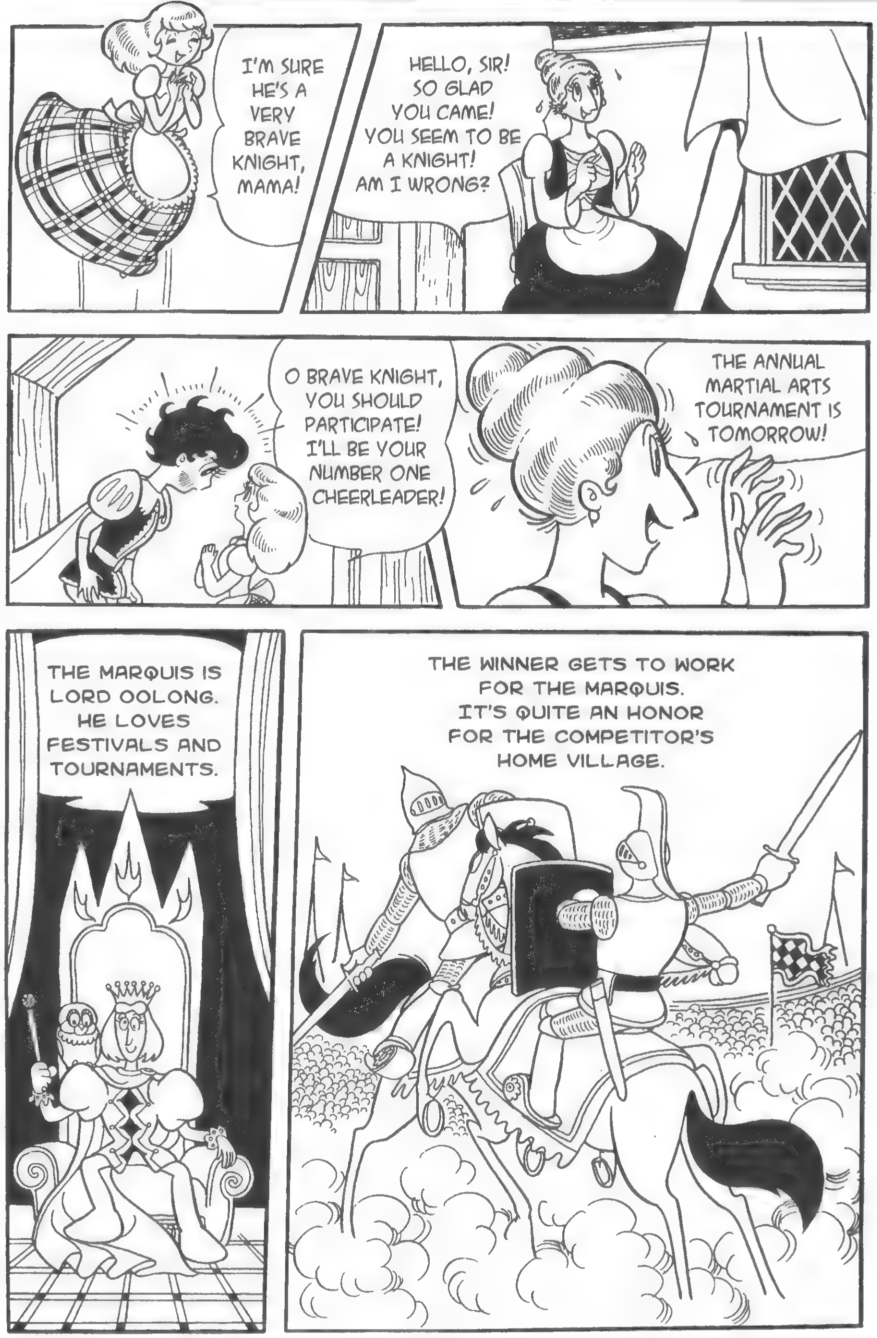

HO HO!
I KNEW HE'D CHASE AFTER HER.
HE'S TAKING THIS SO VERY SERIOUSLY.
EROS!
NEIGH?
PLEASE STOP, VENUS. THIS IS TOO CAPRICIOUS, EVEN FOR YOU!
DON'T COMMENT ON MY AFFAIRS. I WILL NOT LET FRANZ FIND SAPPHIRE.

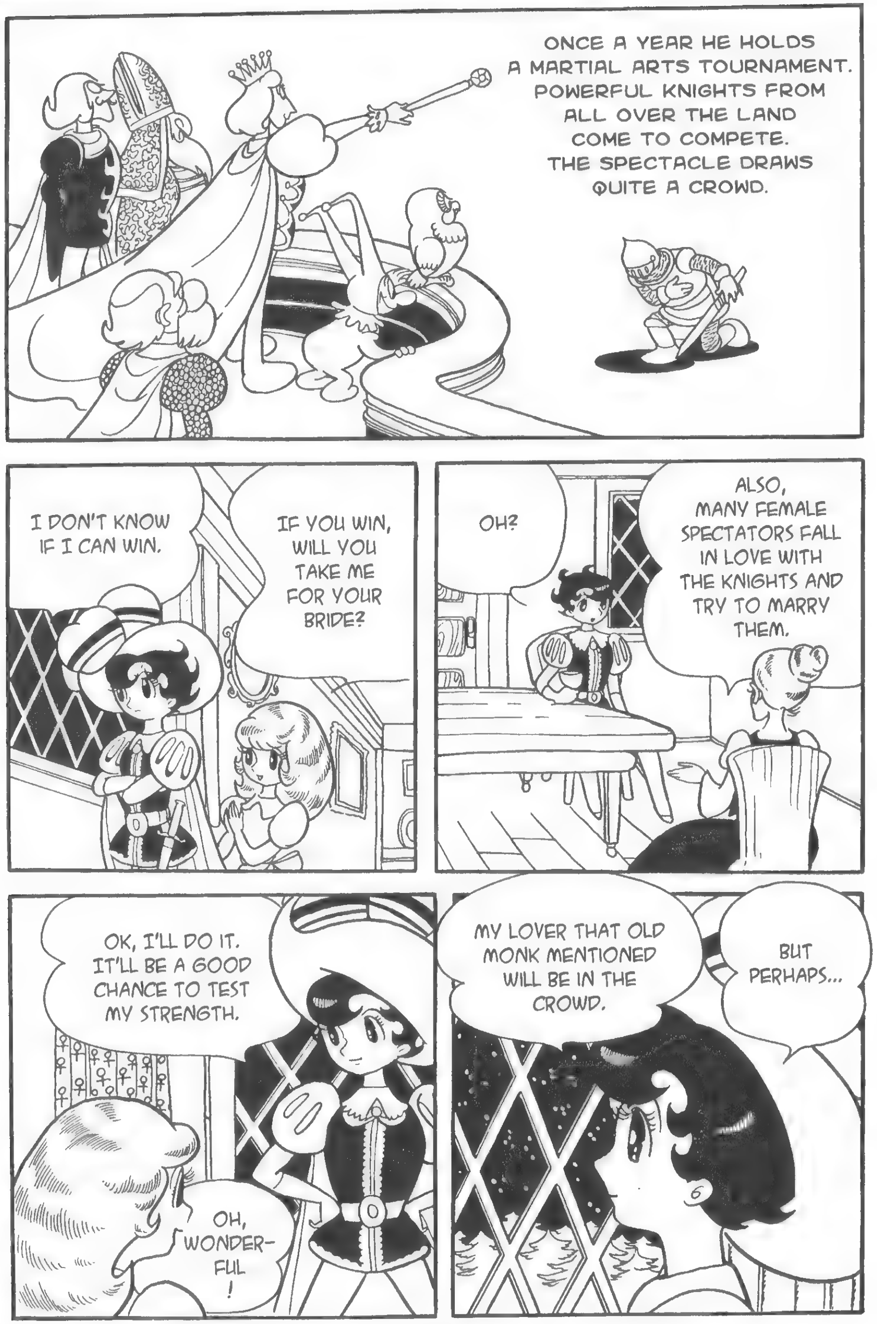

Eastern Border
North Mtn. Pass
South Palace
West
NORTH MEANS A MOUNTAIN PASS. NO MATTER.
HUH?
OH. OH? ISN'T THAT PRINCE SAPPHIRE? I HEARD A RUMOR HE DIED! NOW HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE? RIDING AROUND ON A HORSE?
I G-GOTTA RUN AWAY...
BREEE!
SHHH!

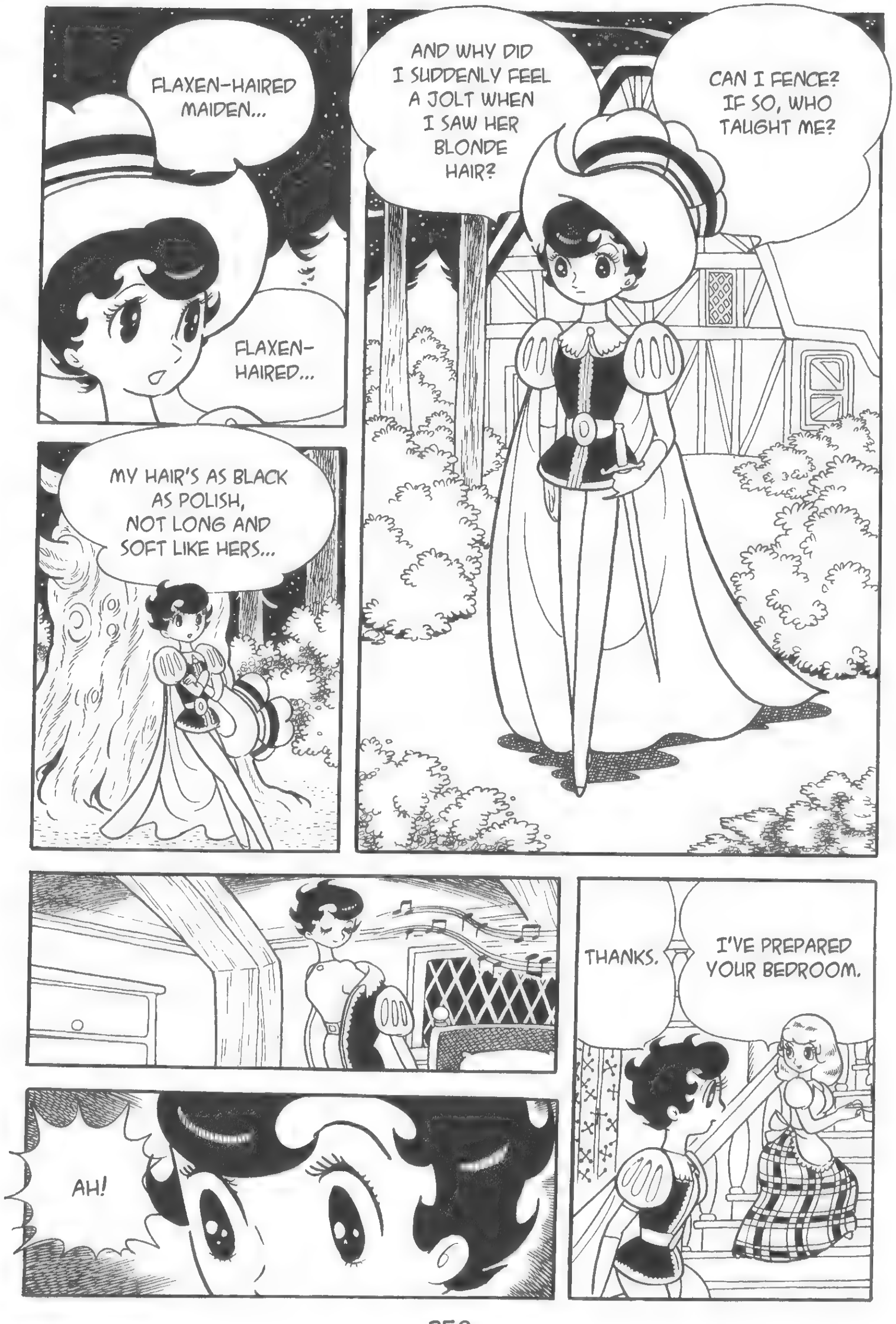

WHINNY!
QUIET! KEEP STILL!
HELLO, FELLOW TRAVELLER.
EEP.
HEH HEH. G-GREAT WEATHER WE'RE HAVING. ERM, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
IS THERE AN INN NORTH OF HERE?
UH, DO YOU UH, REALLY, UH, NOT RECOGNIZE ME?
NO...
ぽか〜ん
AGOG
...REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER ME...

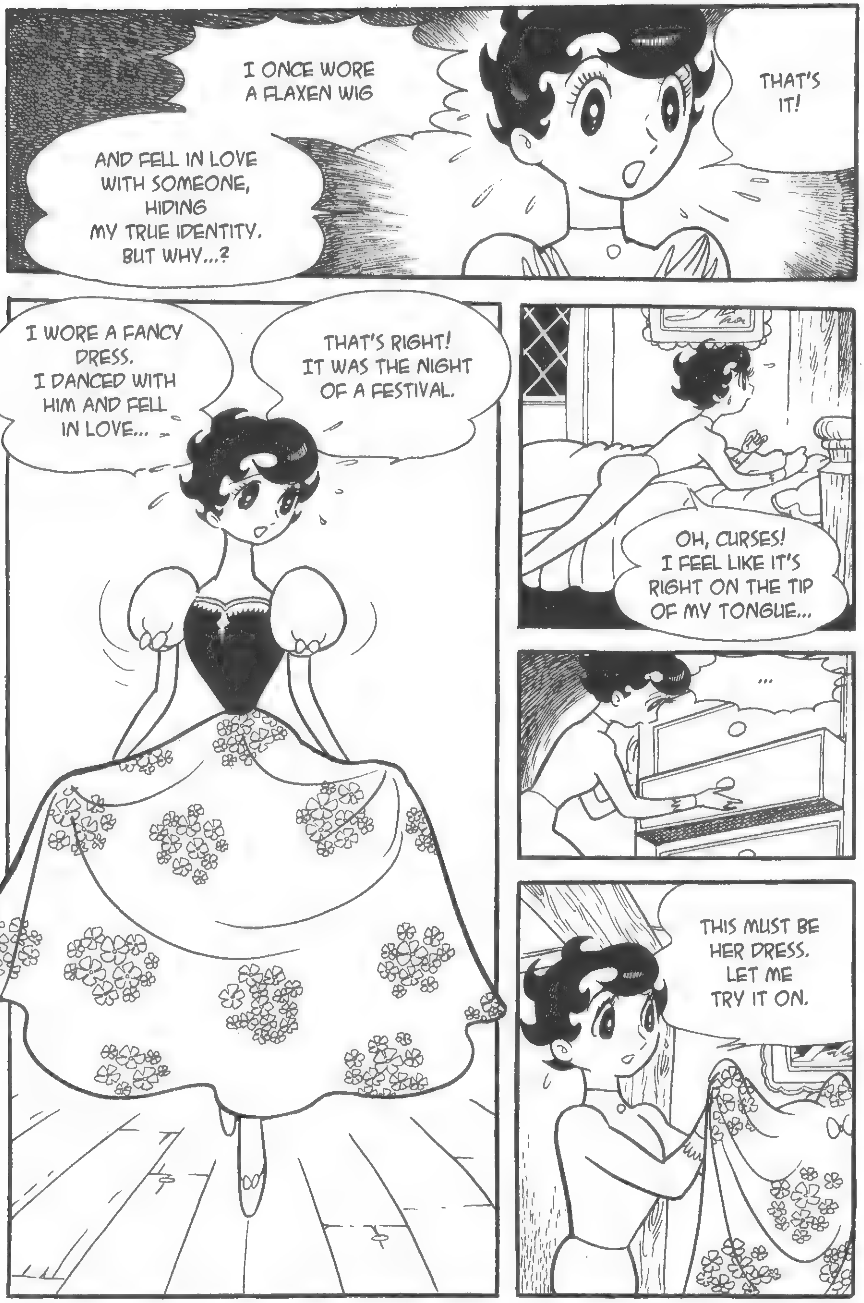

WHO WAS THAT?
EVEN JUST ONE MEMORY IS FINE... I WANT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING.
A HINT...
GASP
A GIRL WITH FLAXEN HAIR...

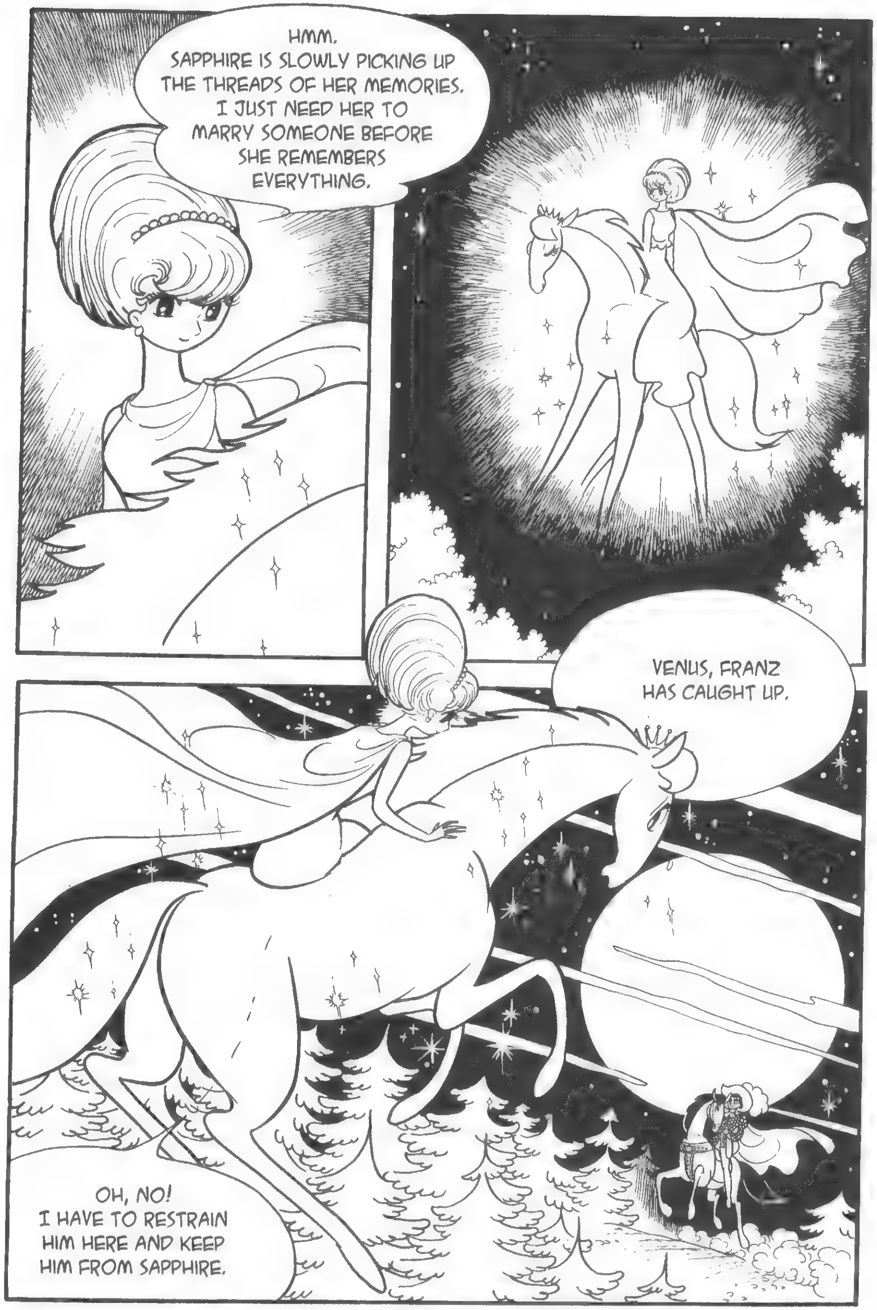

EXCUSE ME, SIR KNIGHT. BUT WHY DO YOU STARE AT ME SO?
AH, NOTHING, MISS. TELL ME, IS THERE AN INN AROUND HERE?
NO INN, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AT MY HOUSE!
I NEARLY HAD A FLASH OF A MEMORY WHEN I SAW HER BLONDE HAIR.
PLEASE COME IN.

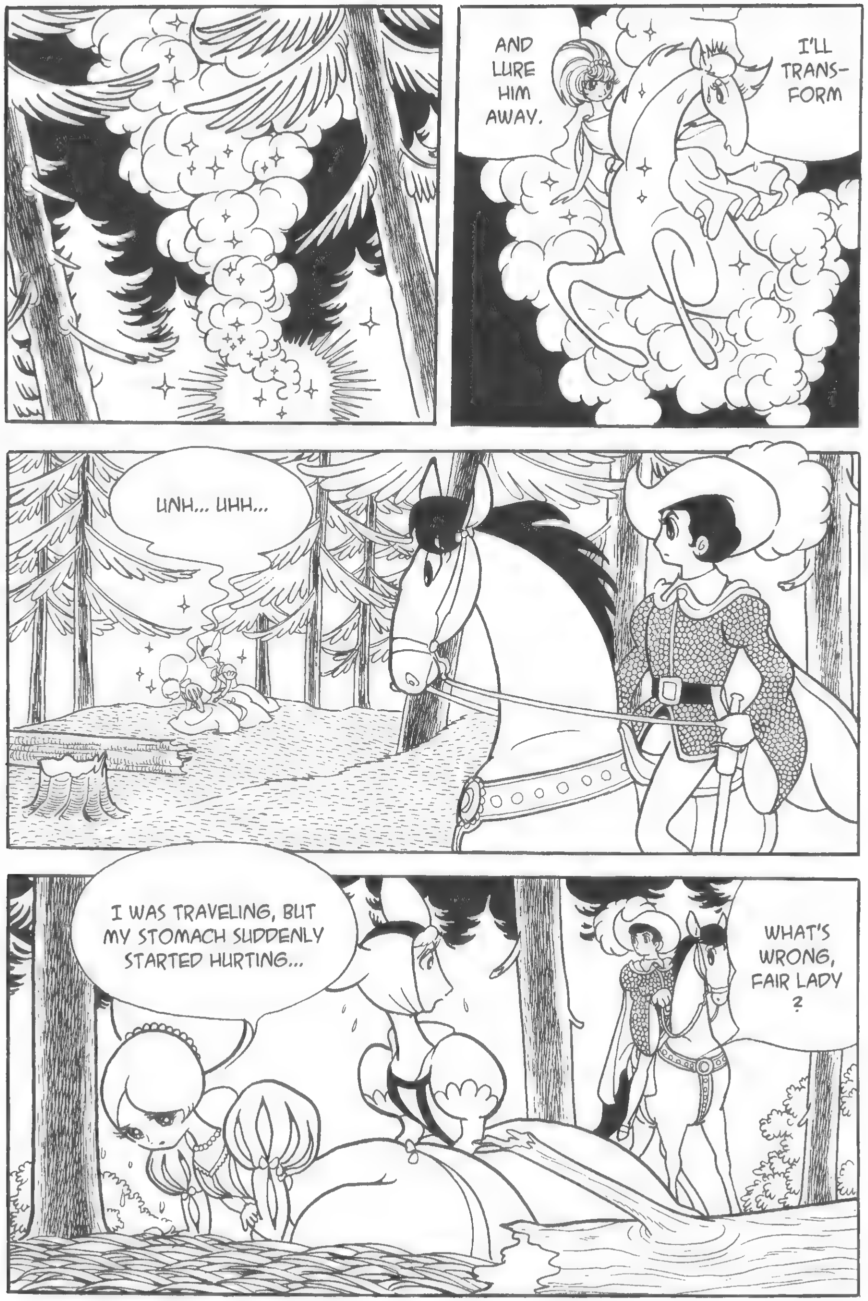

HELLO, SIR! SO GLAD YOU CAME! YOU SEEM TO BE A KNIGHT! AM I WRONG?
I'M SURE HE'S A VERY BRAVE KNIGHT, MAMA!
THE ANNUAL MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT IS TOMORROW!
O BRAVE KNIGHT, YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE! I'LL BE YOUR NUMBER ONE CHEERLEADER!
THE WINNER GETS TO WORK FOR THE MARQUIS. IT'S QUITE AN HONOR FOR THE COMPETITOR'S HOME VILLAGE.
THE MARQUIS IS LORD OOLONG. HE LOVES FESTIVALS AND TOURNAMENTS.

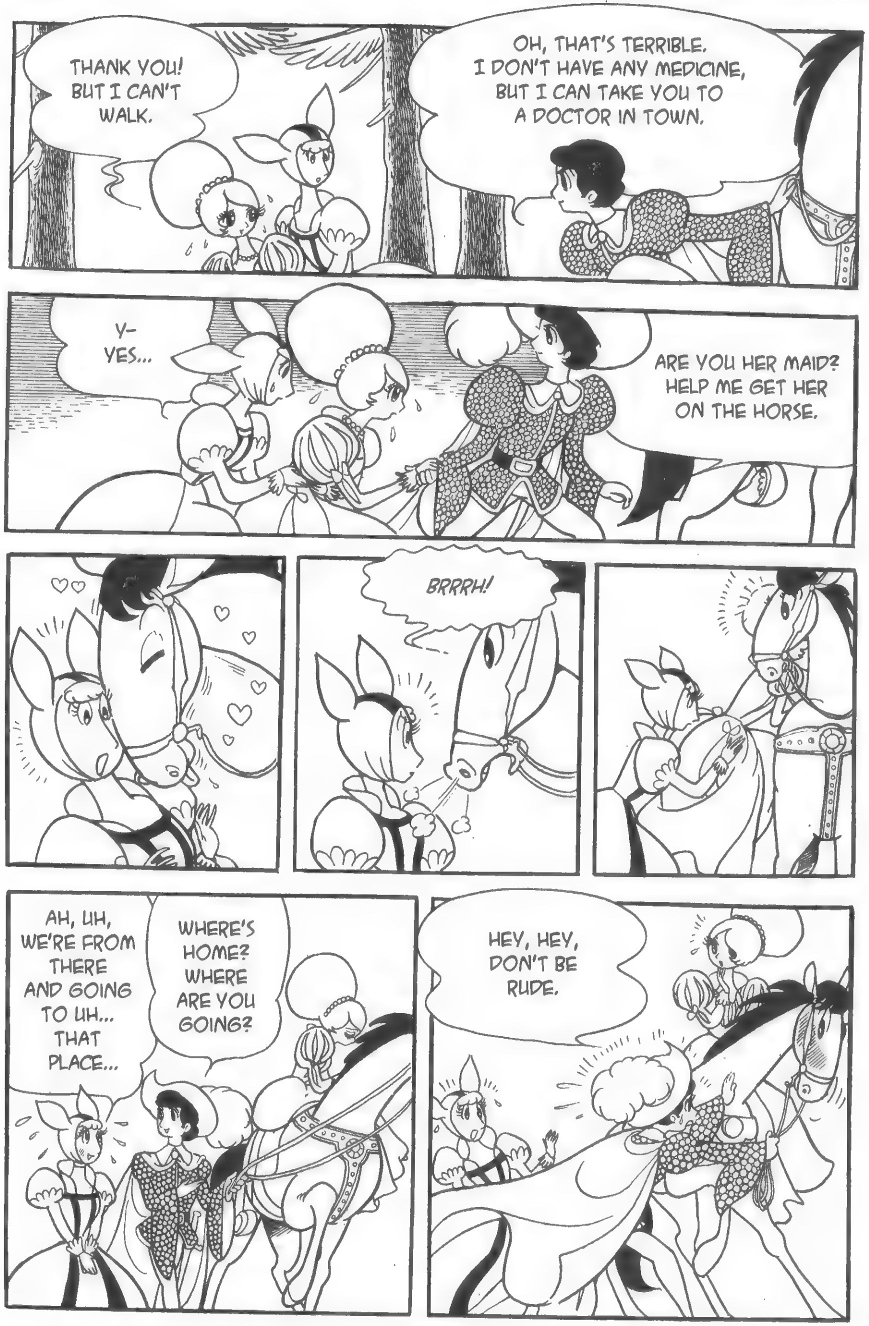

ONCE A YEAR HE HOLDS A MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT. POWERFUL KNIGHTS FROM ALL OVER THE LAND COME TO COMPETE. THE SPECTACLE DRAWS QUITE A CROWD.
ALSO, MANY FEMALE SPECTATORS FALL IN LOVE WITH THE KNIGHTS AND TRY TO MARRY THEM.
OH?
IF YOU WIN, WILL YOU TAKE ME FOR YOUR BRIDE?
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WIN.
BUT PERHAPS...
MY LOVER THAT OLD MONK MENTIONED WILL BE IN THE CROWD.
OK, I'LL DO IT. IT'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE TO TEST MY STRENGTH.
OH, WONDERFUL!

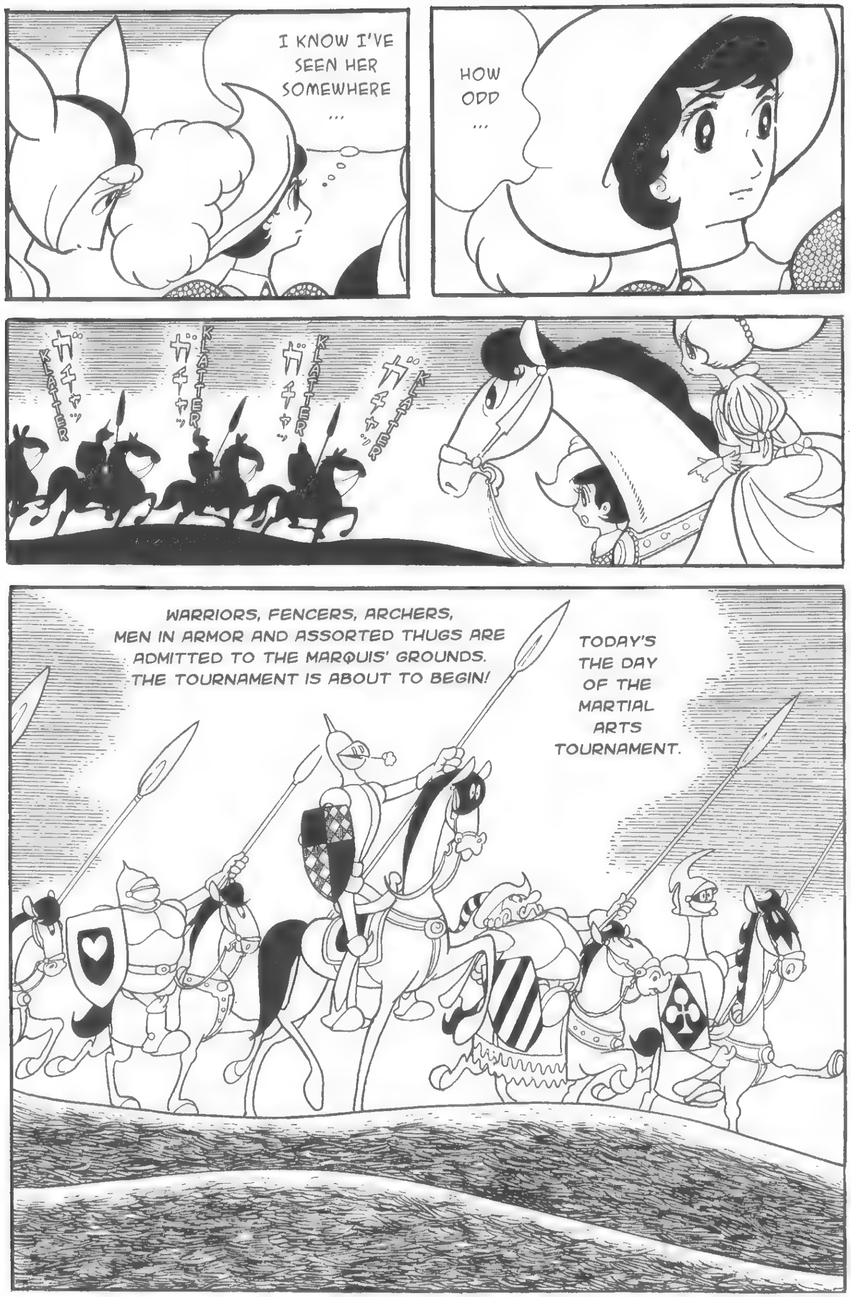

CAN I FENCE? IF SO, WHO TAUGHT ME?
AND WHY DID I SUDDENLY FEEL A JOLT WHEN I SAW HER BLONDE HAIR?
FLAXEN-HAIRED MAIDEN...
FLAXEN-HAIRED...
MY HAIR'S AS BLACK AS POLISH, NOT LONG AND SOFT LIKE HERS...
I'VE PREPARED YOUR BEDROOM.
THANKS.
AH!

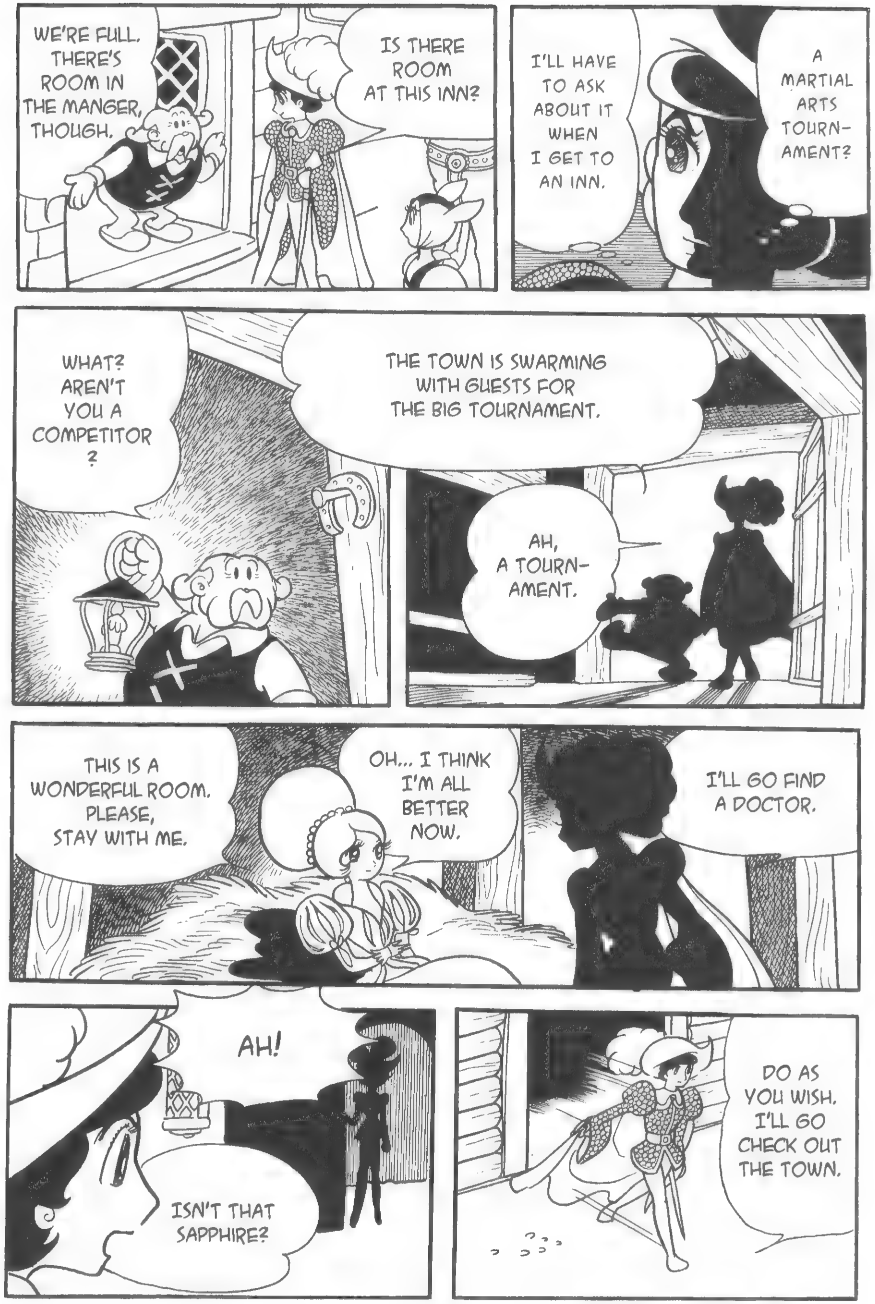

THAT'S IT!
I ONCE WORE A FLAXEN WIG
AND FELL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE, HIDING MY TRUE IDENTITY. BUT WHY...?
OH, CURSES! I FEEL LIKE IT'S RIGHT ON THE TIP OF MY TONGUE...
...
THIS MUST BE HER DRESS. LET ME TRY IT ON.
THAT'S RIGHT! IT WAS THE NIGHT OF A FESTIVAL.
I WORE A FANCY DRESS. I DANCED WITH HIM AND FELL IN LOVE...

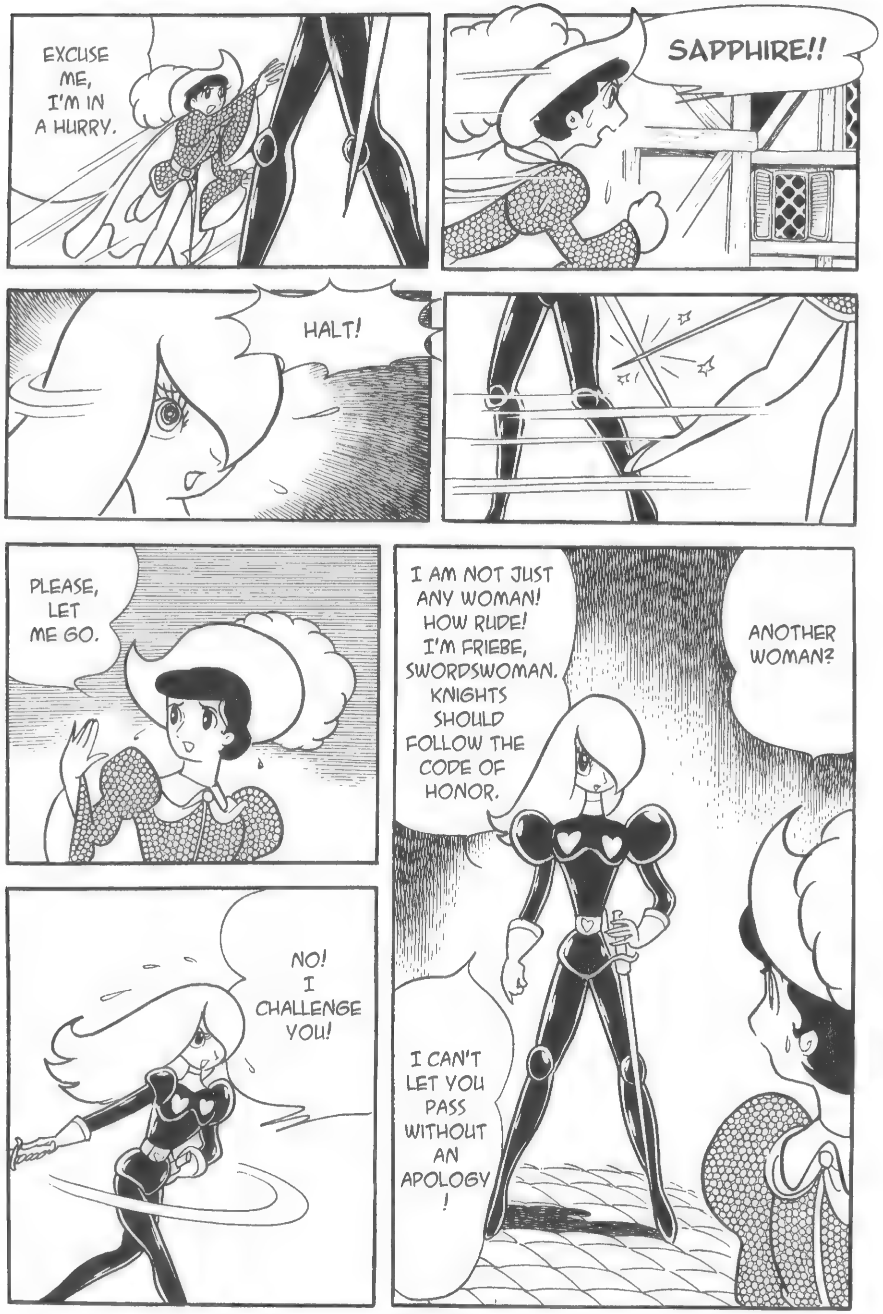

HMM. SAPPHIRE IS SLOWLY PICKING UP THE THREADS OF HER MEMORIES. I JUST NEED HER TO MARRY SOMEONE BEFORE SHE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING.
VENUS, FRANZ HAS CAUGHT UP.
OH, NO! I HAVE TO RESTRAIN HIM HERE AND KEEP HIM FROM SAPPHIRE.

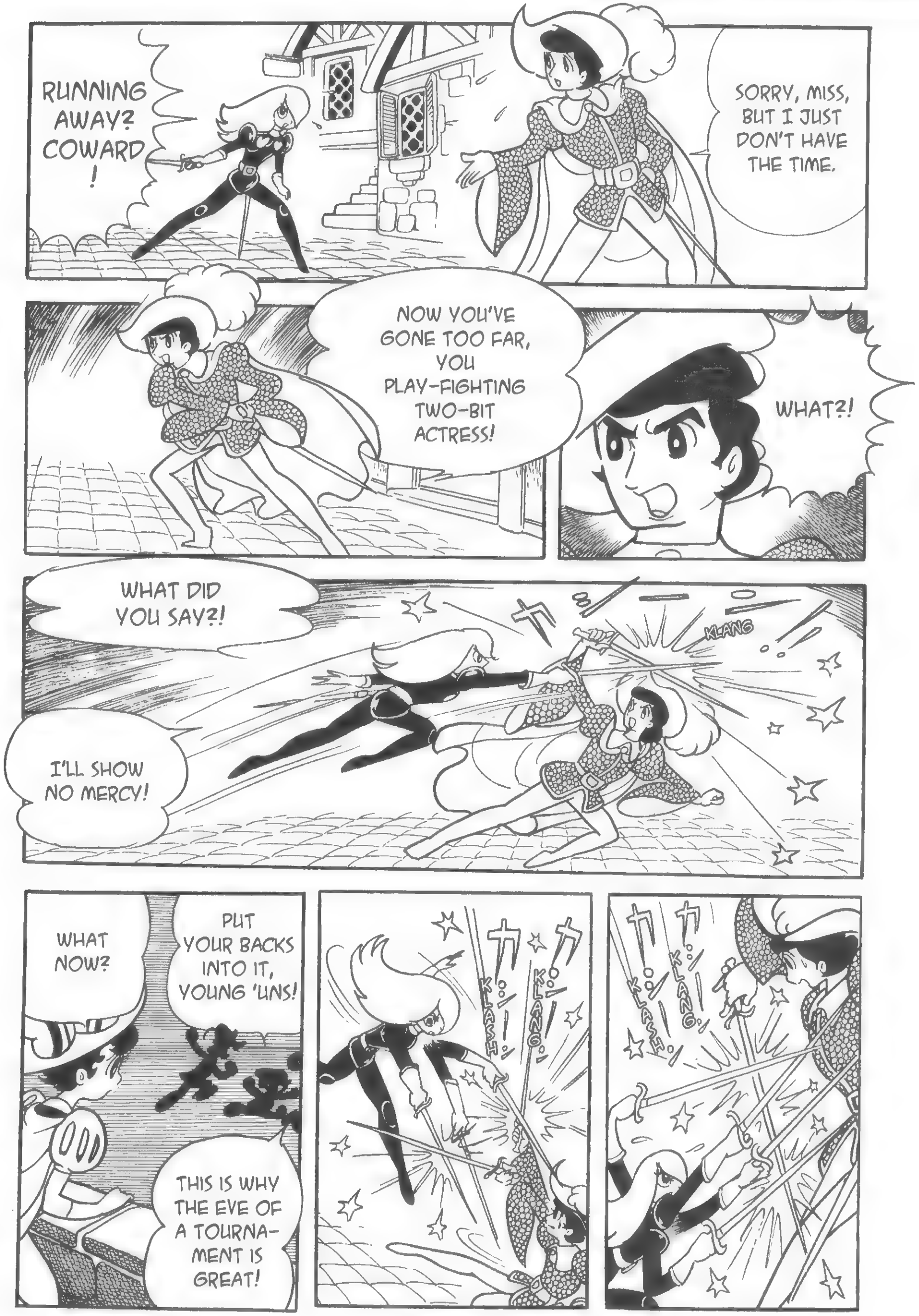

I'LL TRANSFORM
AND LURE HIM AWAY.
UNH... UHH...
WHAT'S WRONG, FAIR LADY?
I WAS TRAVELING, BUT MY STOMACH SUDDENLY STARTED HURTING...

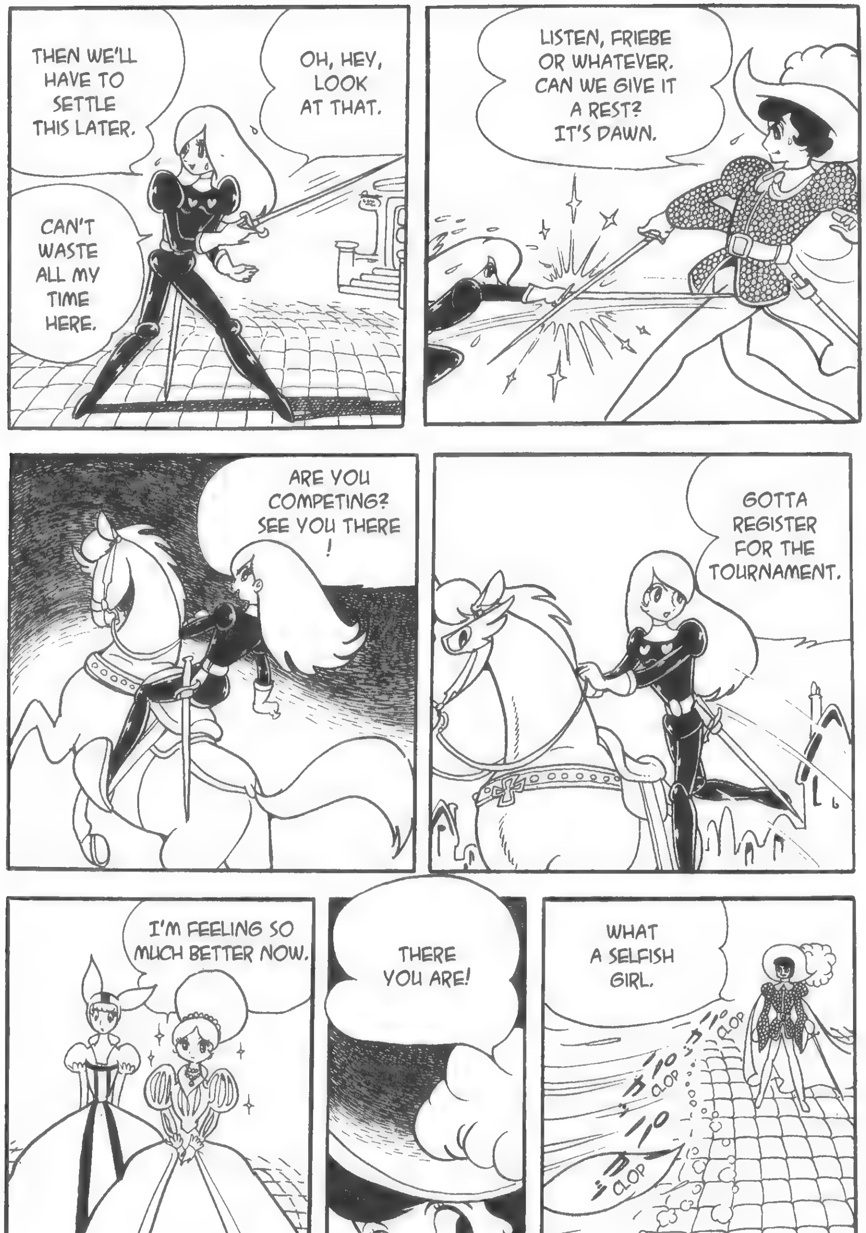

OH, THAT'S TERRIBLE. I DON'T HAVE ANY MEDICINE, BUT I CAN TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR IN TOWN.
THANK YOU! BUT I CAN'T WALK.
ARE YOU HER MAID? HELP ME GET HER ON THE HORSE.
Y- YES...
BRRRH!
HEY, HEY, DON'T BE RUDE.
WHERE'S HOME? WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AH, UH, WE'RE FROM THERE AND GOING TO UH... THAT PLACE...

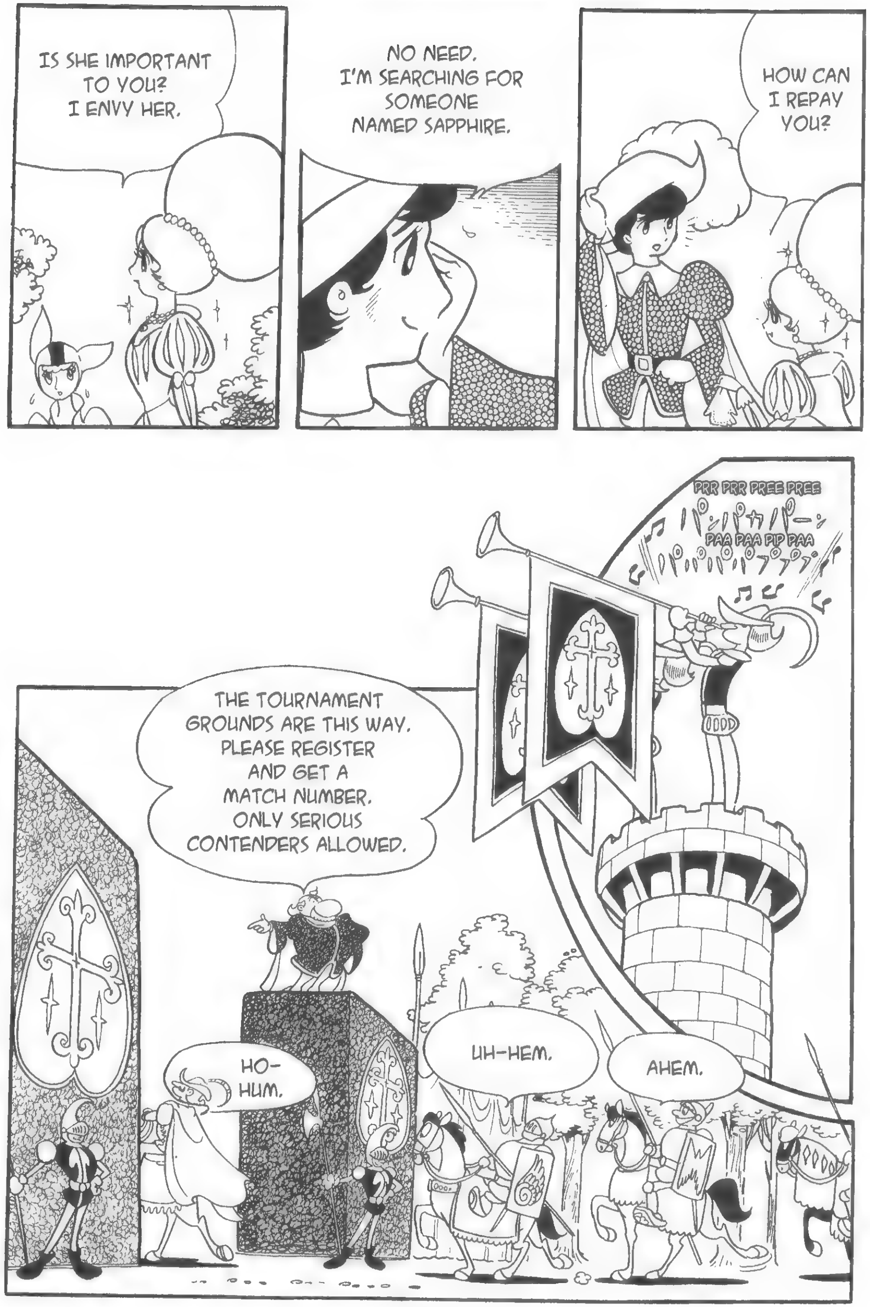

HOW ODD ...
I KNOW I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE ...
ガチャッ KLATTER
ガチャッ KLATTER
ガチャッ KLATTER
ガチャッ KLATTER
TODAY'S THE DAY OF THE MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT.
WARRIORS, FENCERS, ARCHERS, MEN IN ARMOR AND ASSORTED THUGS ARE ADMITTED TO THE MARQUIS' GROUNDS. THE TOURNAMENT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

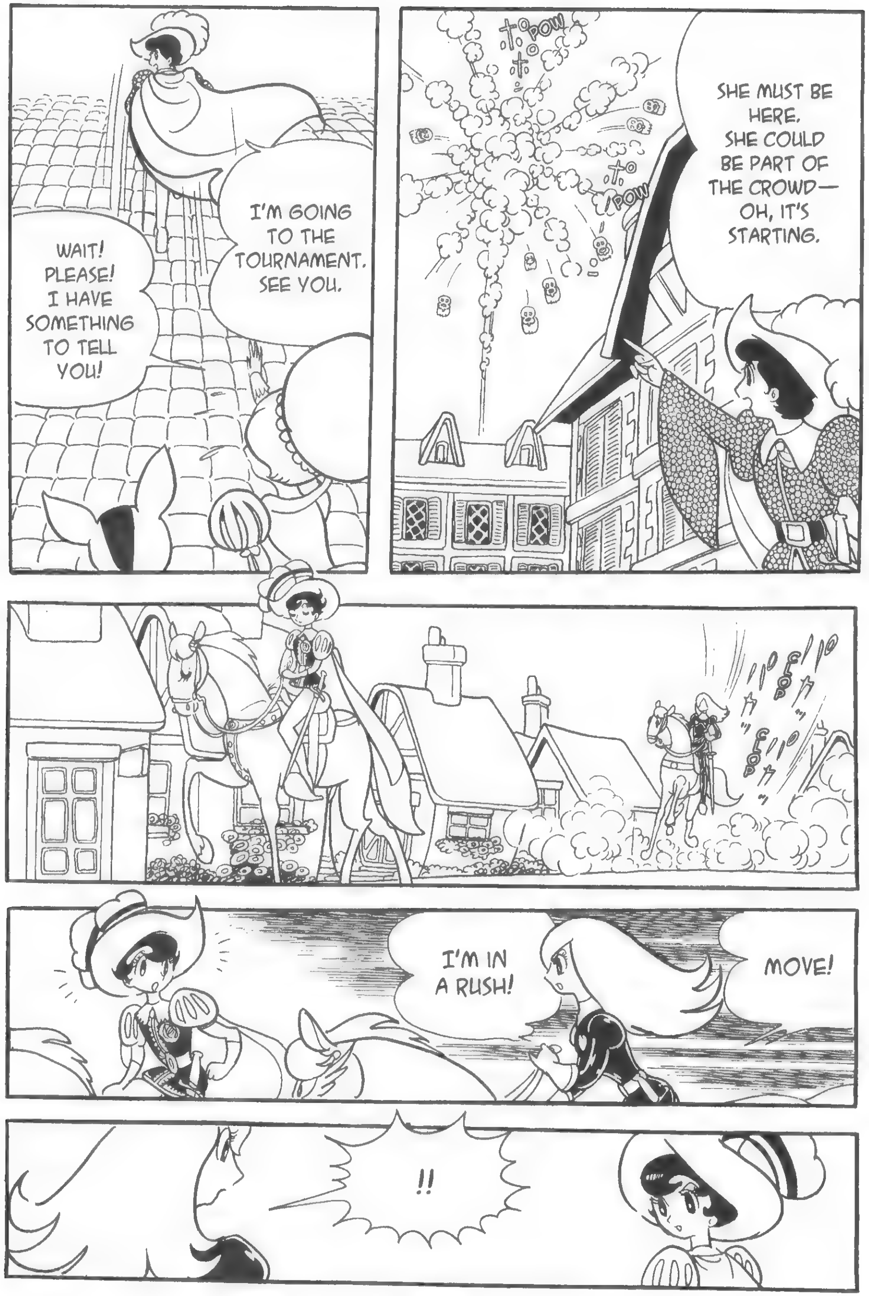

A MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT?
I'LL HAVE TO ASK ABOUT IT WHEN I GET TO AN INN.
IS THERE ROOM AT THIS INN?
WE'RE FULL. THERE'S ROOM IN THE MANGER, THOUGH.
THE TOWN IS SWARMING WITH GUESTS FOR THE BIG TOURNAMENT.
WHAT? AREN'T YOU A COMPETITOR?
AH, A TOURNAMENT.
I'LL GO FIND A DOCTOR.
OH... I THINK I'M ALL BETTER NOW.
THIS IS A WONDERFUL ROOM. PLEASE, STAY WITH ME.
DO AS YOU WISH. I'LL GO CHECK OUT THE TOWN.
AH!
ISN'T THAT SAPPHIRE?

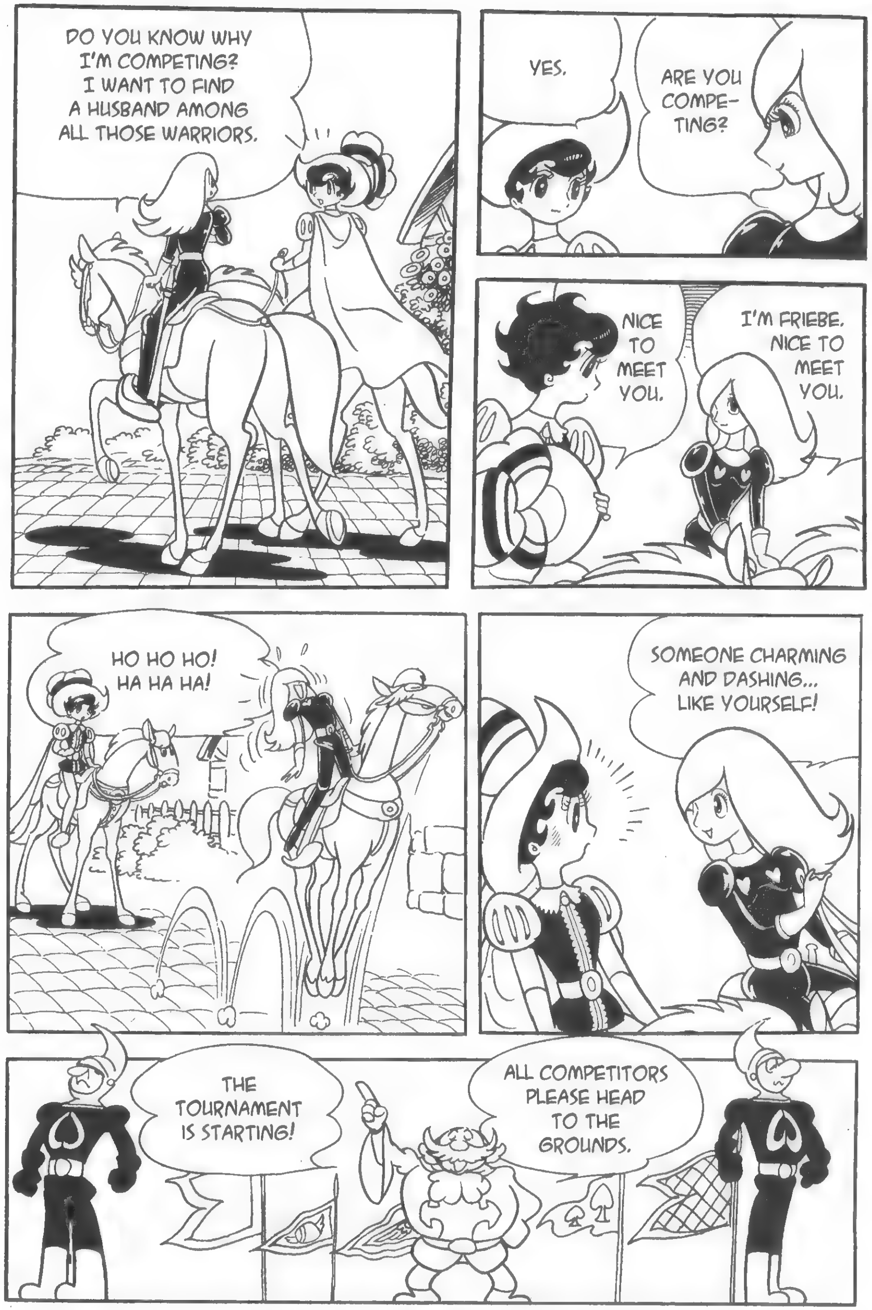

SAPPHIRE!!
EXCUSE ME, I'M IN A HURRY.
HALT!
ANOTHER WOMAN?
I AM NOT JUST ANY WOMAN! HOW RUDE! I'M FRIEBE, SWORDSWOMAN. KNIGHTS SHOULD FOLLOW THE CODE OF HONOR.
I CAN'T LET YOU PASS WITHOUT AN APOLOGY!
PLEASE, LET ME GO.
NO! I CHALLENGE YOU!

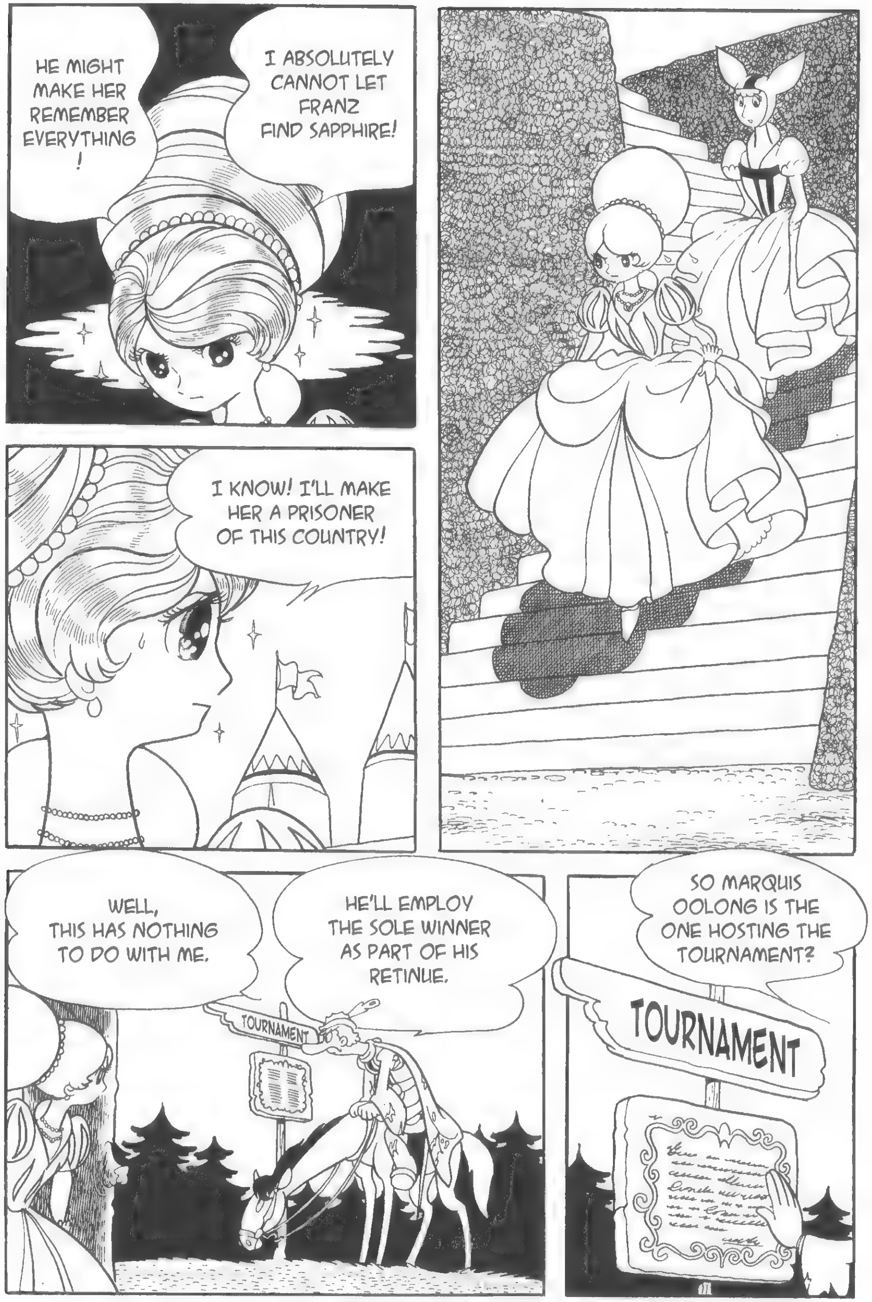

SORRY, MISS, BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME.
RUNNING AWAY? COWARD!
WHAT?!
NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, YOU PLAY-FIGHTING TWO-BIT ACTRESS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I'LL SHOW NO MERCY!
KLANG
カ
KLASH
KLANG
カ
KLANG
KLASH
PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT, YOUNG 'UNS!
WHAT NOW?
THIS IS WHY THE EVE OF A TOURNAMENT IS GREAT!

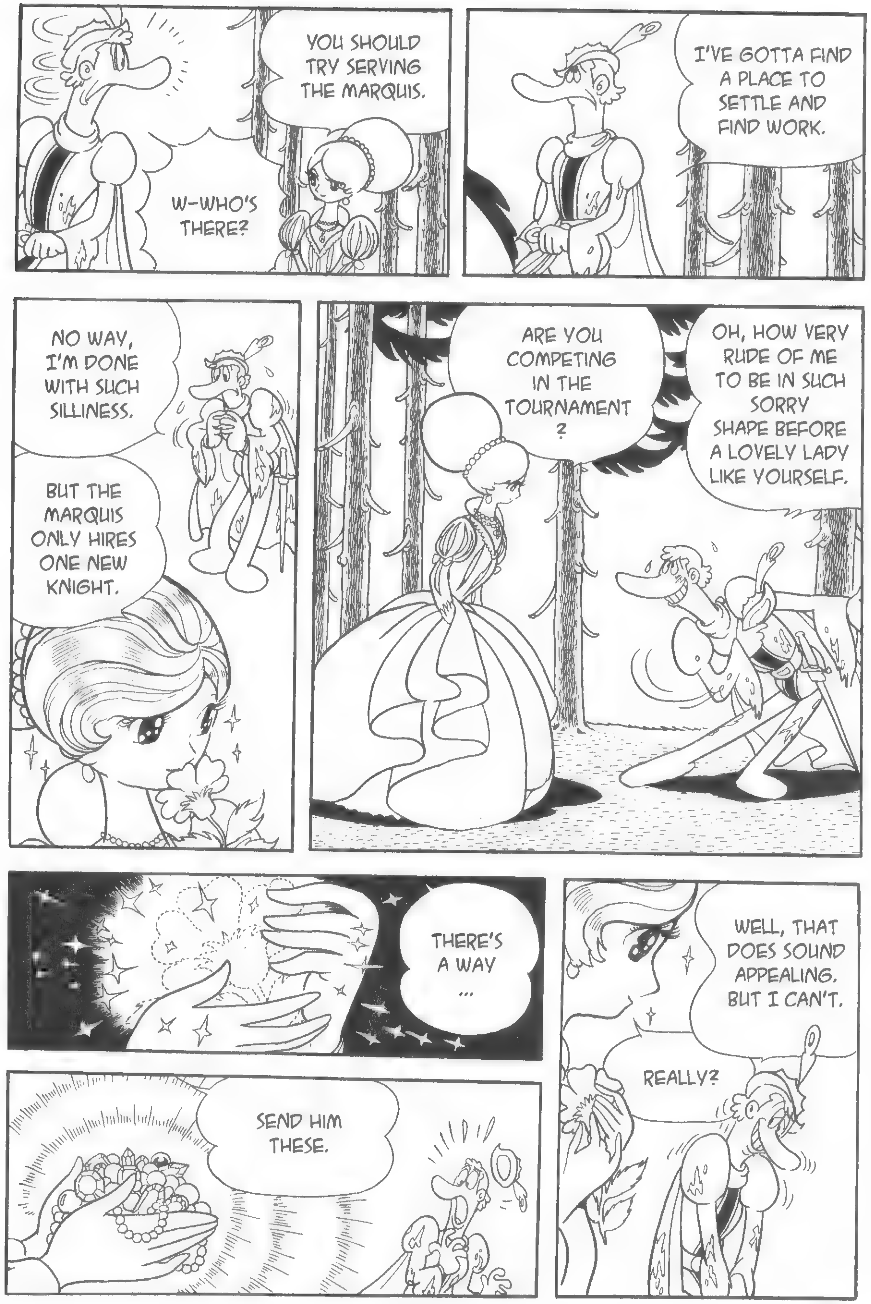

LISTEN, FRIEBE OR WHATEVER. CAN WE GIVE IT A REST? IT'S DAWN.
OH, HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO SETTLE THIS LATER.
CAN'T WASTE ALL MY TIME HERE.
GOTTA REGISTER FOR THE TOURNAMENT.
ARE YOU COMPETING? SEE YOU THERE!
WHAT A SELFISH GIRL.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
THERE YOU ARE!
I'M FEELING SO MUCH BETTER NOW.

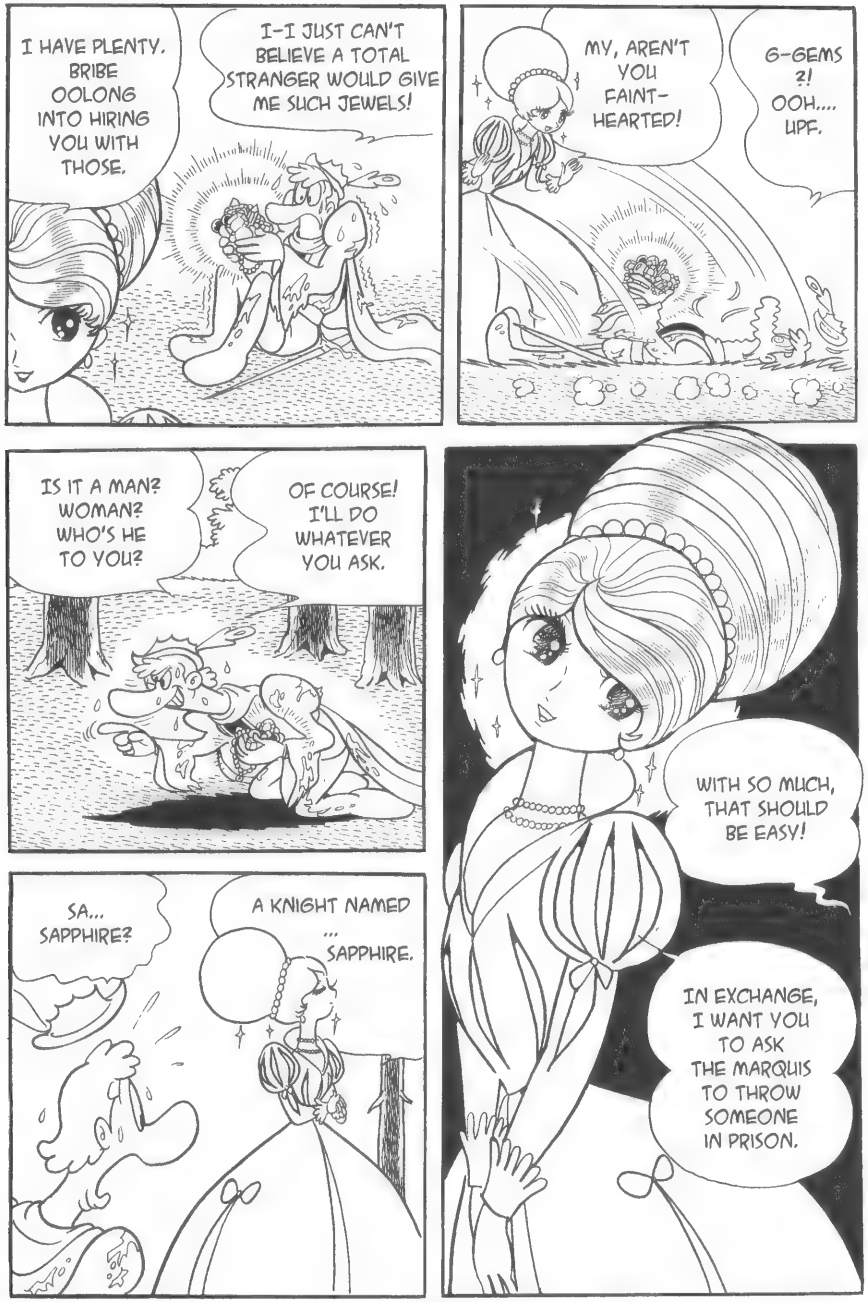

HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?
NO NEED. I'M SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE NAMED SAPPHIRE.
IS SHE IMPORTANT TO YOU? I ENVY HER.
PRR PRR PREE PREE
PAA PAA PIP PAA
THE TOURNAMENT GROUNDS ARE THIS WAY. PLEASE REGISTER AND GET A MATCH NUMBER. ONLY SERIOUS CONTENDERS ALLOWED.
AHEM.
UH-HEM.
HO-HUM.

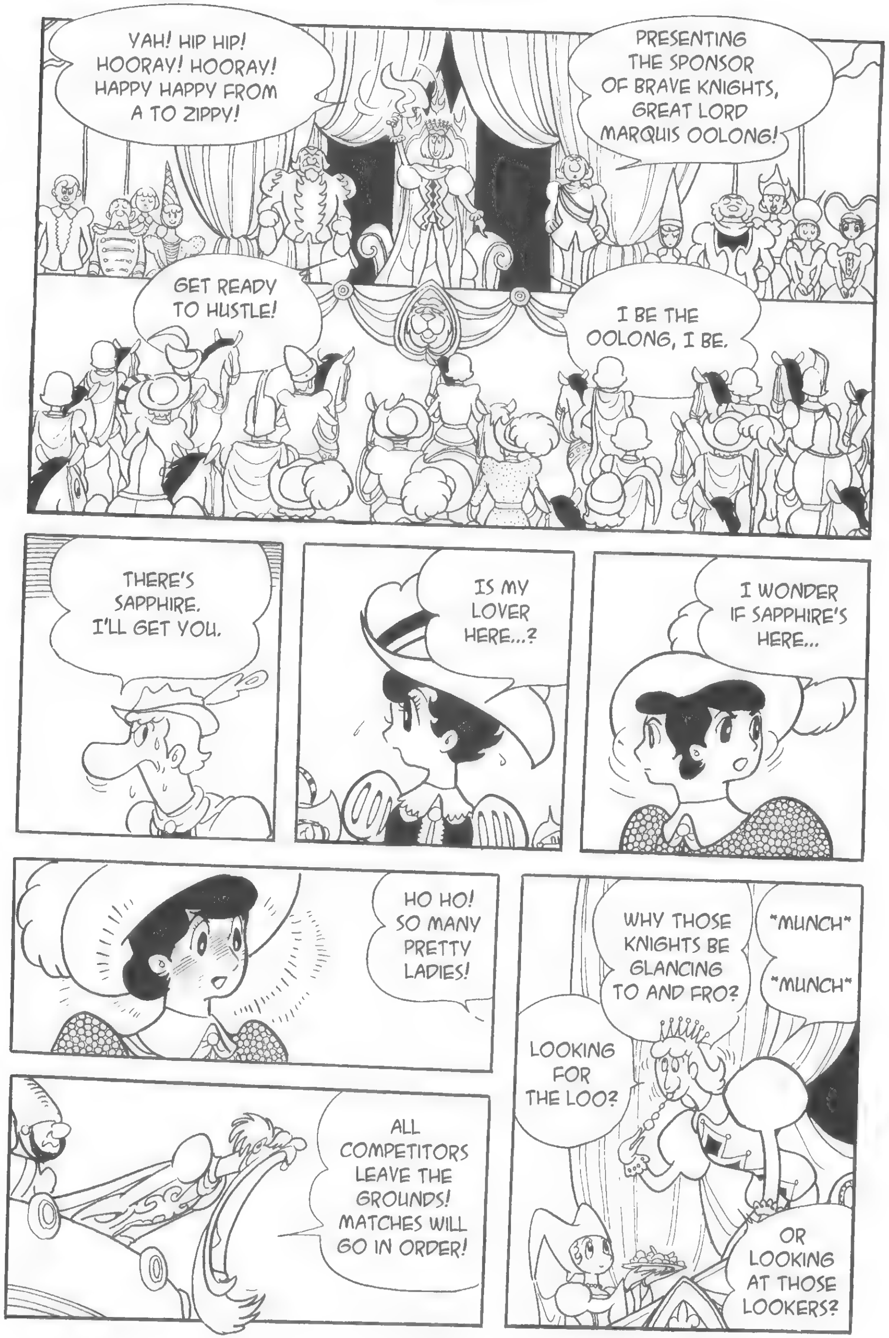

SHE MUST BE HERE. SHE COULD BE PART OF THE CROWD— OH, IT'S STARTING.
POW
POW
I'M GOING TO THE TOURNAMENT. SEE YOU.
WAIT! PLEASE! I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
MOVE!
I'M IN A RUSH!
!!

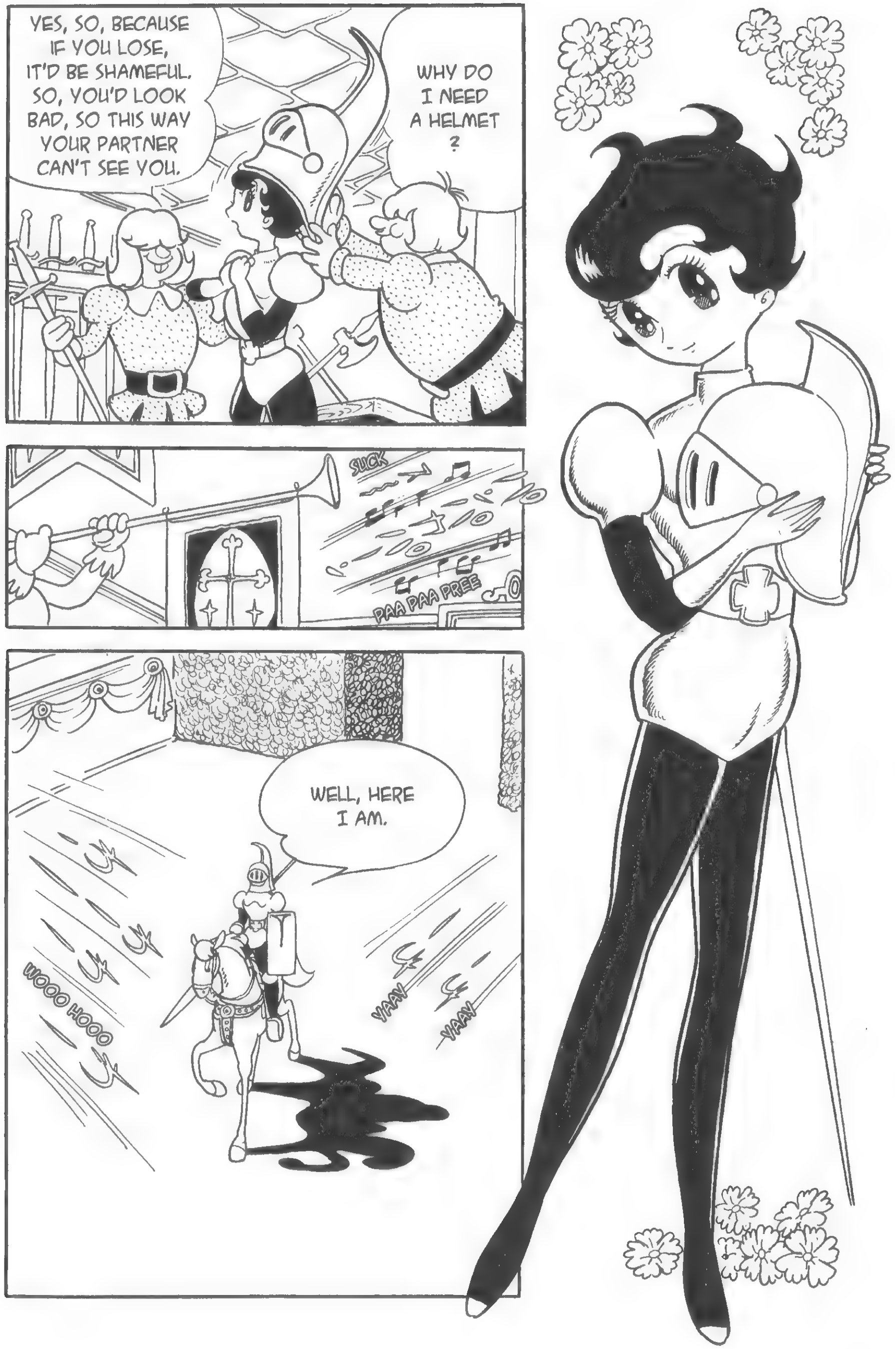

ARE YOU COMPETING?
YES.
I'M FRIEBE. NICE TO MEET YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHY I'M COMPETING? I WANT TO FIND A HUSBAND AMONG ALL THOSE WARRIORS.
SOMEONE CHARMING AND DASHING... LIKE YOURSELF!
HO HO HO! HA HA HA!
ALL COMPETITORS PLEASE HEAD TO THE GROUNDS.
THE TOURNAMENT IS STARTING!

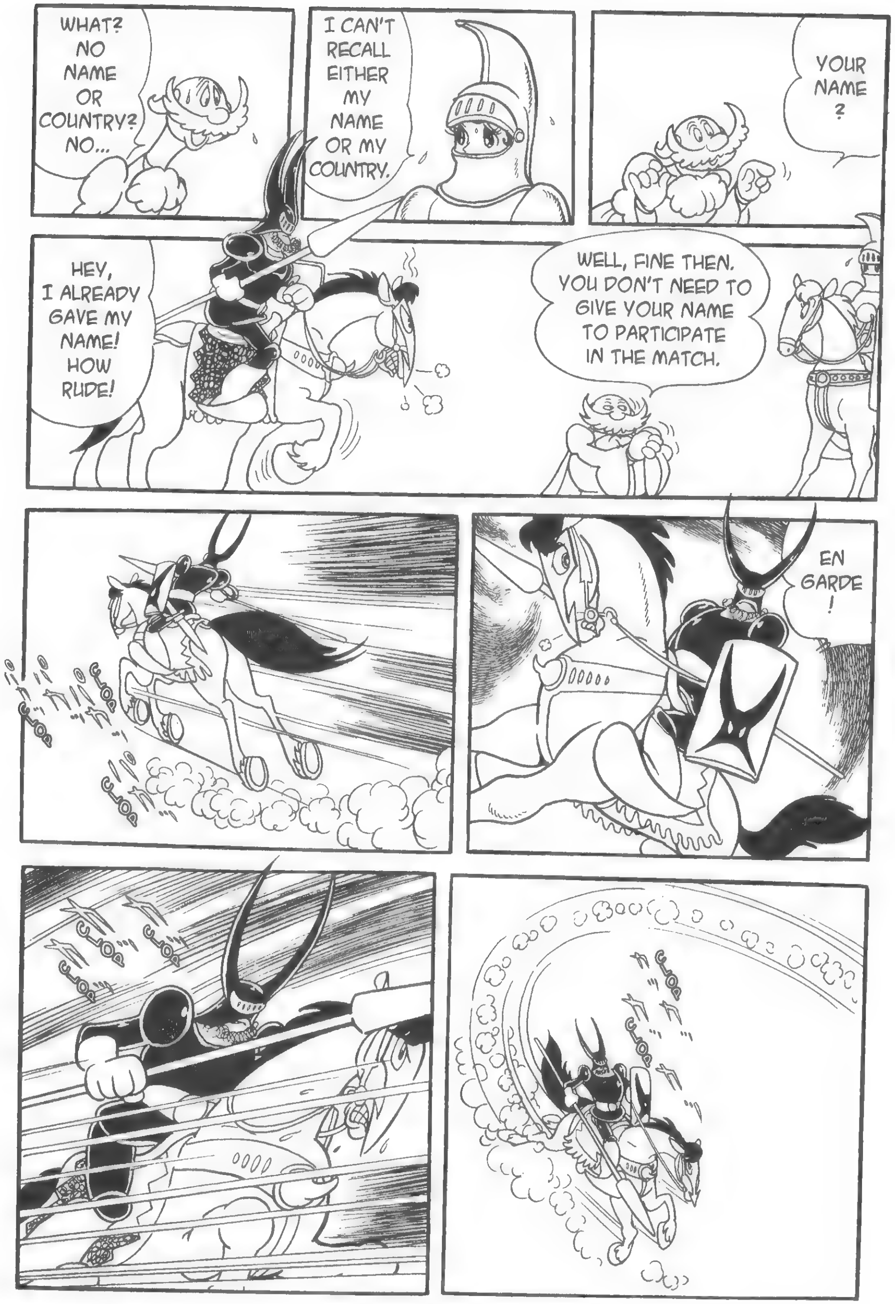

I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT LET FRANZ FIND SAPPHIRE!
HE MIGHT MAKE HER REMEMBER EVERYTHING!
I KNOW! I'LL MAKE HER A PRISONER OF THIS COUNTRY!
SO MARQUIS OOLONG IS THE ONE HOSTING THE TOURNAMENT?
TOURNAMENT
HE'LL EMPLOY THE SOLE WINNER AS PART OF HIS RETINUE.
WELL, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
TOURNAMENT

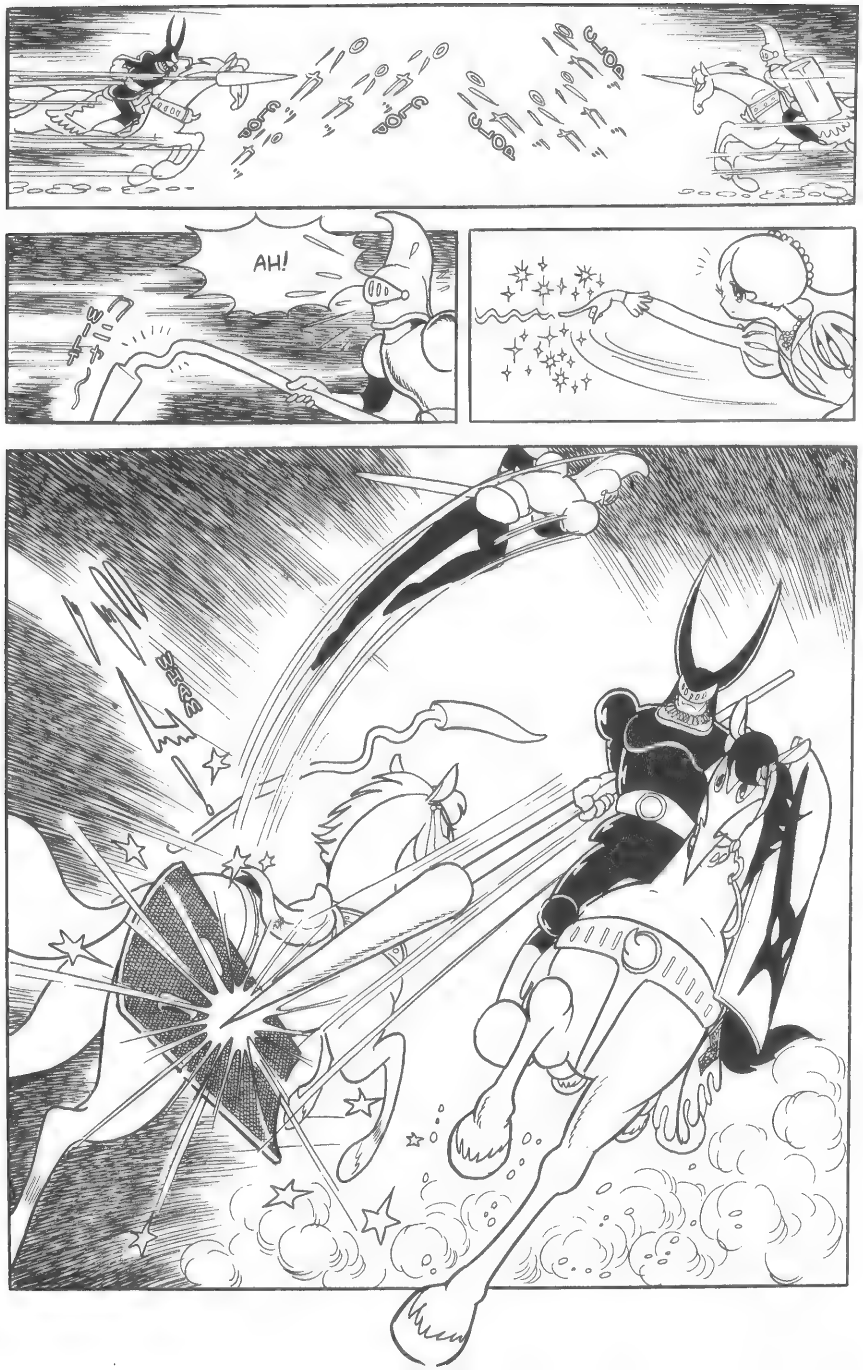

I'VE GOTTA FIND A PLACE TO SETTLE AND FIND WORK.
YOU SHOULD TRY SERVING THE MARQUIS.
W-WHO'S THERE?
OH, HOW VERY RUDE OF ME TO BE IN SUCH SORRY SHAPE BEFORE A LOVELY LADY LIKE YOURSELF.
ARE YOU COMPETING IN THE TOURNAMENT?
NO WAY, I'M DONE WITH SUCH SILLINESS.
BUT THE MARQUIS ONLY HIRES ONE NEW KNIGHT.
WELL, THAT DOES SOUND APPEALING. BUT I CAN'T.
REALLY?
THERE'S A WAY ...
SEND HIM THESE.

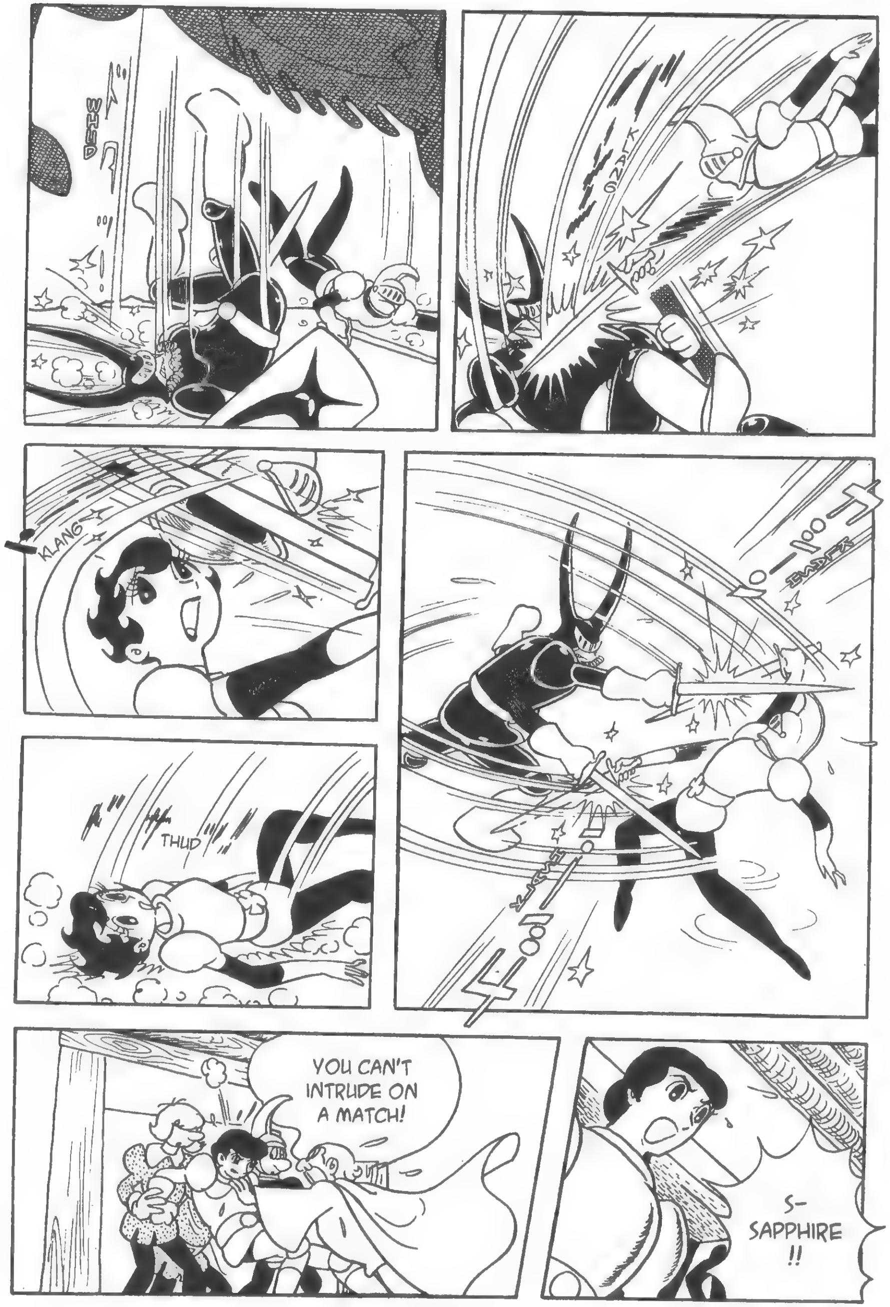

G-GEMS ?! OOH.... UPF.
MY, AREN'T YOU FAINT-HEARTED!
I-I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE A TOTAL STRANGER WOULD GIVE ME SUCH JEWELS!
I HAVE PLENTY. BRIBE OOLONG INTO HIRING YOU WITH THOSE.
WITH SO MUCH, THAT SHOULD BE EASY!
IN EXCHANGE, I WANT YOU TO ASK THE MARQUIS TO THROW SOMEONE IN PRISON.
OF COURSE! I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK.
IS IT A MAN? WOMAN? WHO'S HE TO YOU?
A KNIGHT NAMED ... SAPPHIRE.
SA... SAPPHIRE?

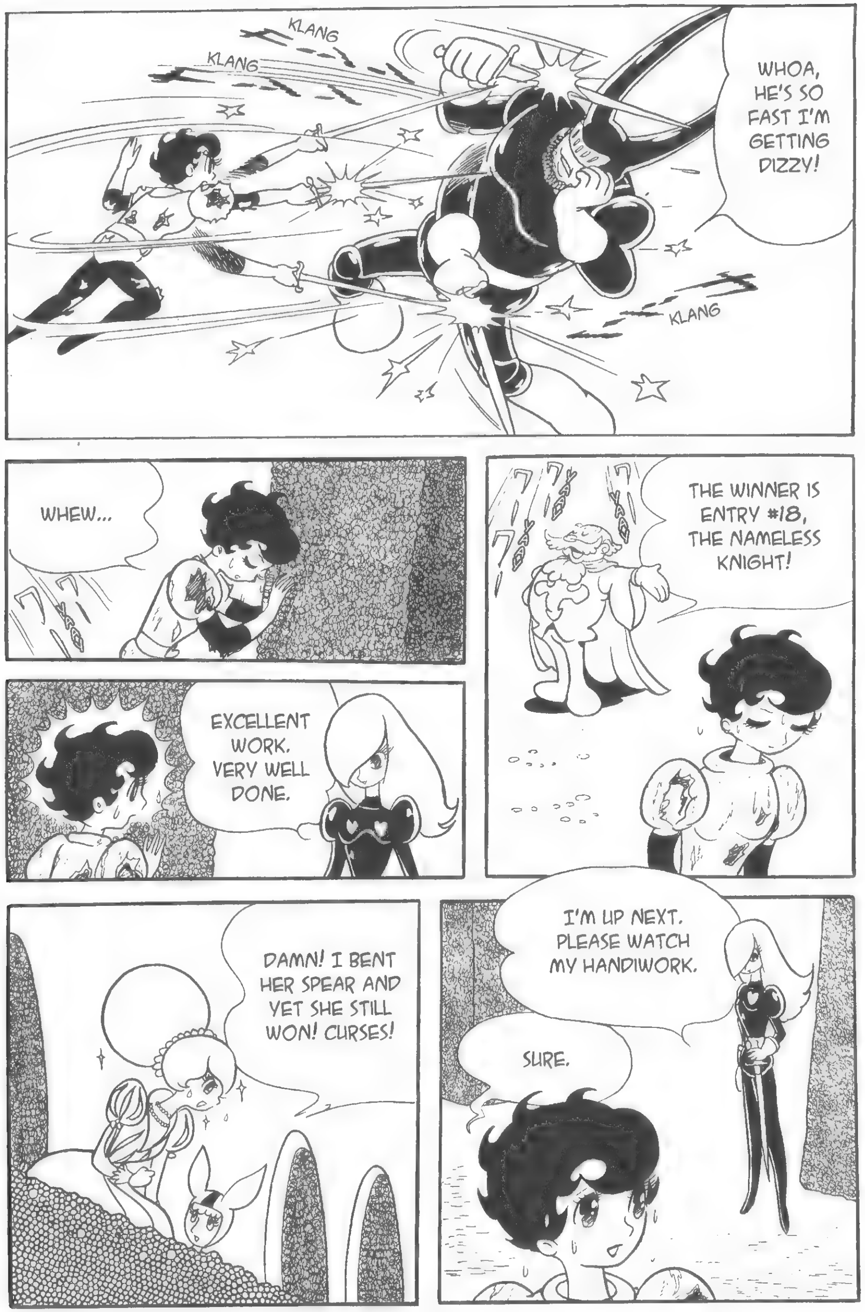

PRESENTING THE SPONSOR OF BRAVE KNIGHTS, GREAT LORD MARQUIS OOLONG!
YAH! HIP HIP! HOORAY! HOORAY! HAPPY HAPPY FROM A TO ZIPPY!
I BE THE OOLONG, I BE.
GET READY TO HUSTLE!
I WONDER IF SAPPHIRE'S HERE...
IS MY LOVER HERE...?
THERE'S SAPPHIRE. I'LL GET YOU.
"MUNCH"
"MUNCH"
WHY THOSE KNIGHTS BE GLANCING TO AND FRO?
LOOKING FOR THE LOO?
OR LOOKING AT THOSE LOOKERS?
HO HO! SO MANY PRETTY LADIES!
ALL COMPETITORS LEAVE THE GROUNDS! MATCHES WILL GO IN ORDER!

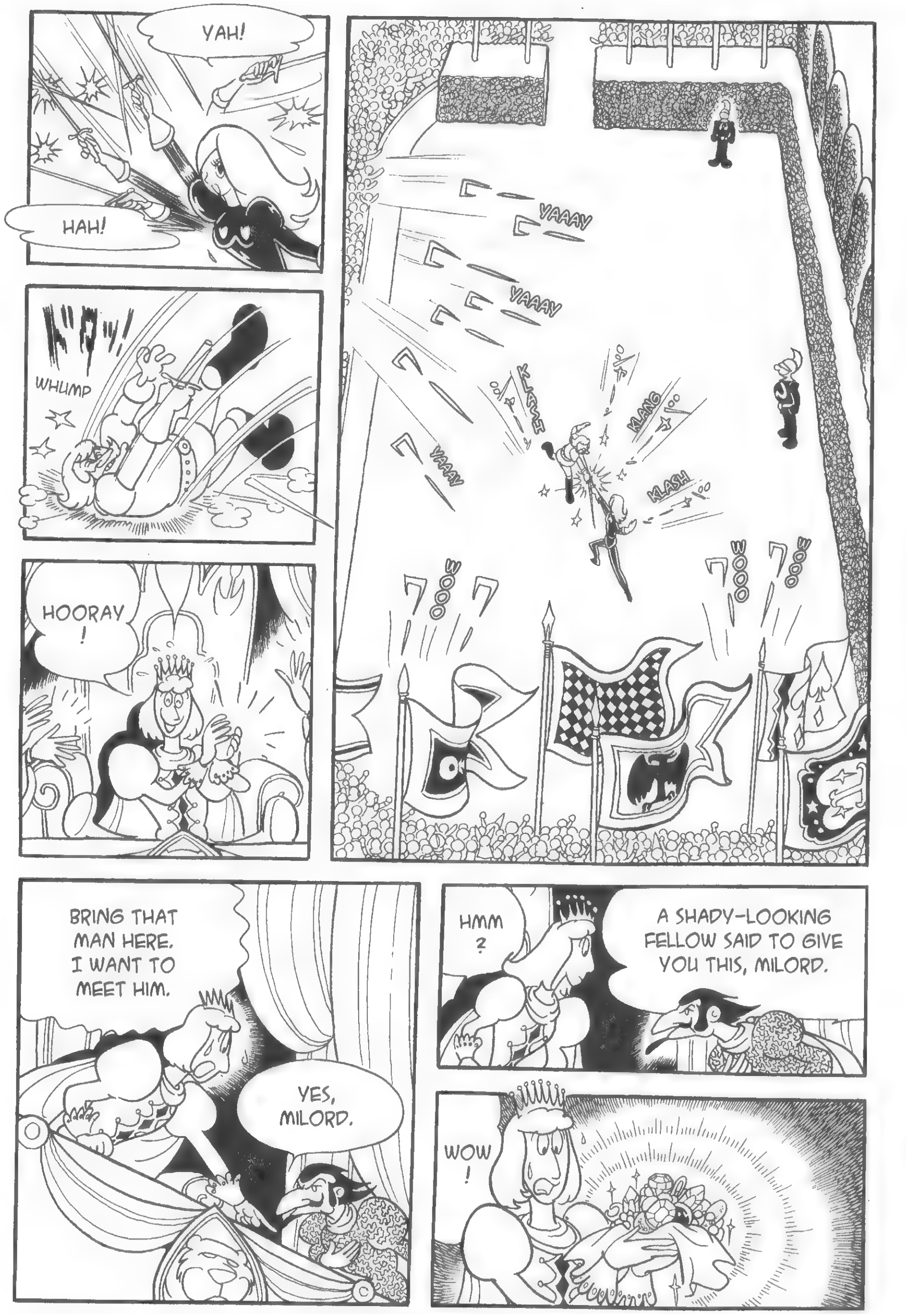

WHY DO I NEED A HELMET?
YES, SO, BECAUSE IF YOU LOSE, IT'D BE SHAMEFUL. SO, YOU'D LOOK BAD, SO THIS WAY YOUR PARTNER CAN'T SEE YOU.
SUCK
PAA PAA PREE
WELL, HERE I AM.
YAAY
YAAY
WOOO HOOO

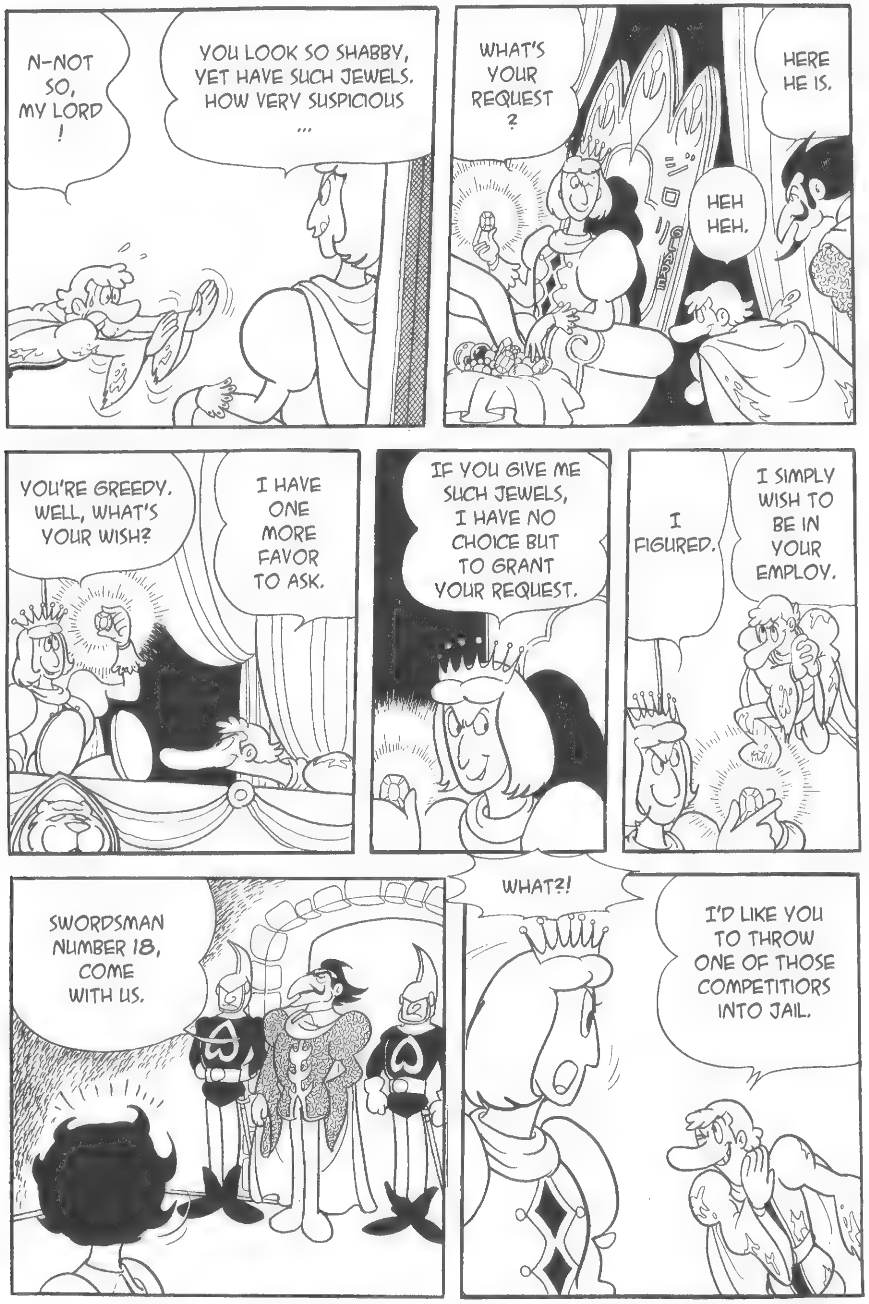

YOUR NAME ?
I CAN'T RECALL EITHER MY NAME OR MY COUNTRY.
WHAT? NO NAME OR COUNTRY? NO...
WELL, FINE THEN. YOU DON'T NEED TO GIVE YOUR NAME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MATCH.
HEY, I ALREADY GAVE MY NAME! HOW RUDE!
EN GARDE !
CLOP CLOP CLOP
CLOP CLOP CLOP
CLOP CLOP


CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP CLOP
AH!


WHISH
KLANG
KLANG
THUD
S- SAPPHIRE !!
YOU CAN'T INTRUDE ON A MATCH!

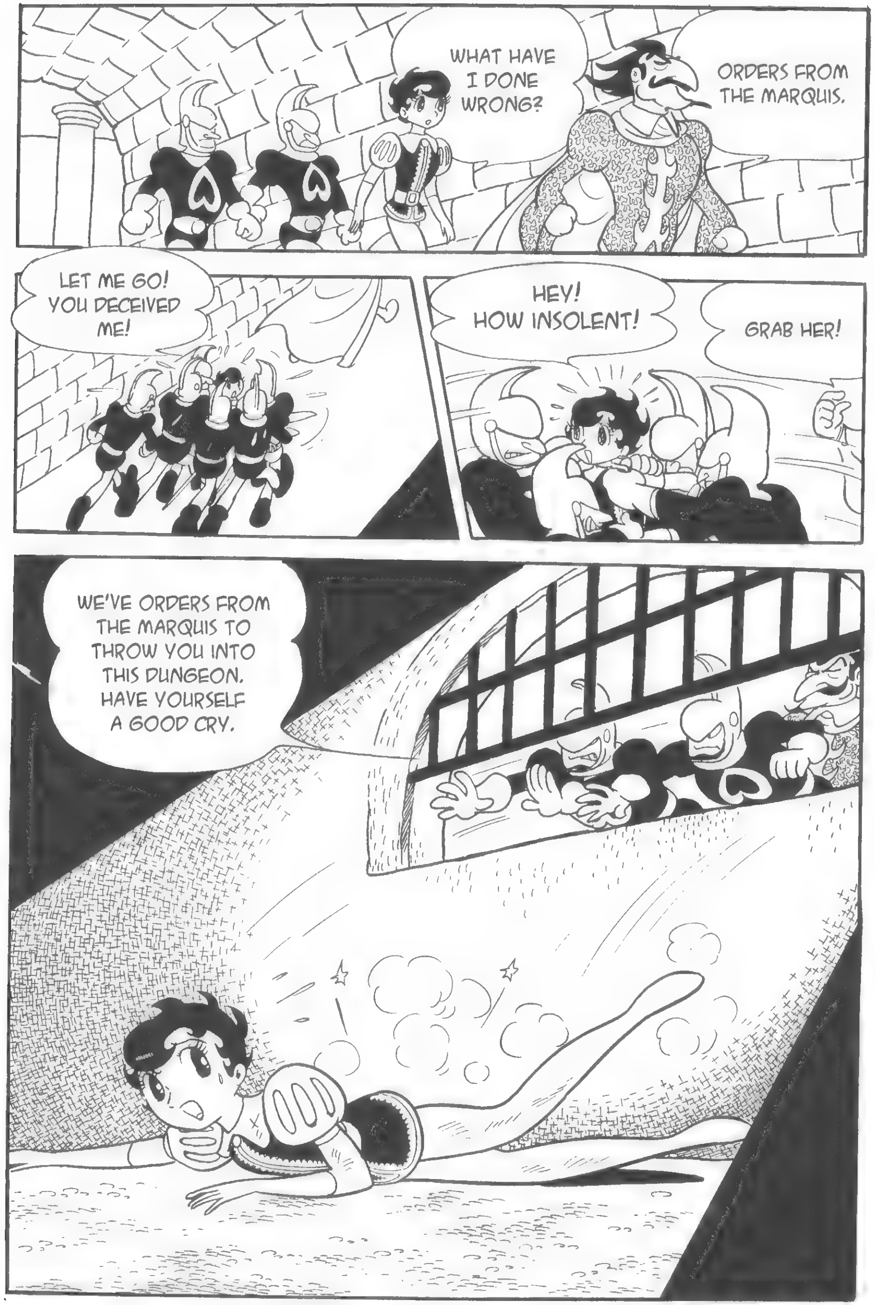

WHOA, HE'S SO FAST I'M GETTING DIZZY!
KLANG
KLANG
KLANG
THE WINNER IS ENTRY #18, THE NAMELESS KNIGHT!
WHEW...
EXCELLENT WORK. VERY WELL DONE.
I'M UP NEXT. PLEASE WATCH MY HANDIWORK.
SURE.
DAMN! I BENT HER SPEAR AND YET SHE STILL WON! CURSES!

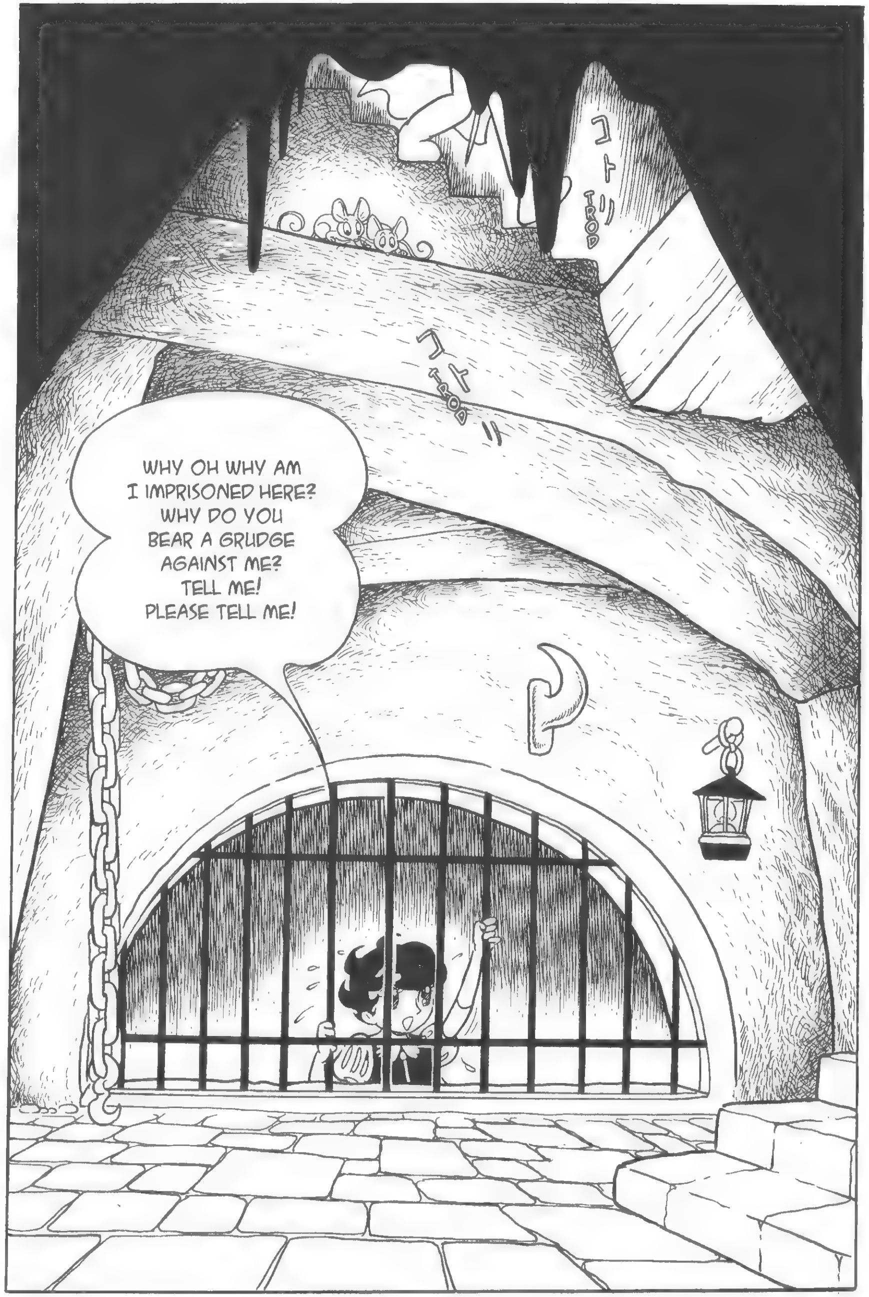

YAAAY
YAAAY
KLANG
KLANG
KLASH
YAAAY
WOOO
WOOO
WOOO
YAH!
HAH!
ドタッ!
WHUMP
HOORAY!
A SHADY-LOOKING FELLOW SAID TO GIVE YOU THIS, MILORD.
HMM?
WOW!
BRING THAT MAN HERE. I WANT TO MEET HIM.
YES, MILORD.


HERE HE IS.
WHAT'S YOUR REQUEST?
HEH HEH.
GLARE
YOU LOOK SO SHABBY, YET HAVE SUCH JEWELS. HOW VERY SUSPICIOUS...
N-NOT SO, MY LORD!
I SIMPLY WISH TO BE IN YOUR EMPLOY.
I FIGURED.
IF YOU GIVE ME SUCH JEWELS, I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GRANT YOUR REQUEST.
I HAVE ONE MORE FAVOR TO ASK.
YOU'RE GREEDY. WELL, WHAT'S YOUR WISH?
I'D LIKE YOU TO THROW ONE OF THOSE COMPETITIORS INTO JAIL.
WHAT?!
SWORDSMAN NUMBER 18, COME WITH US.

Chapter 26

Friebe, Swordswoman


WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?
ORDERS FROM THE MARQUIS.
LET ME GO! YOU DECEIVED ME!
HEY! HOW INSOLENT!
GRAB HER!
WE'VE ORDERS FROM THE MARQUIS TO THROW YOU INTO THIS DUNGEON. HAVE YOURSELF A GOOD CRY.


コトリ
TROD
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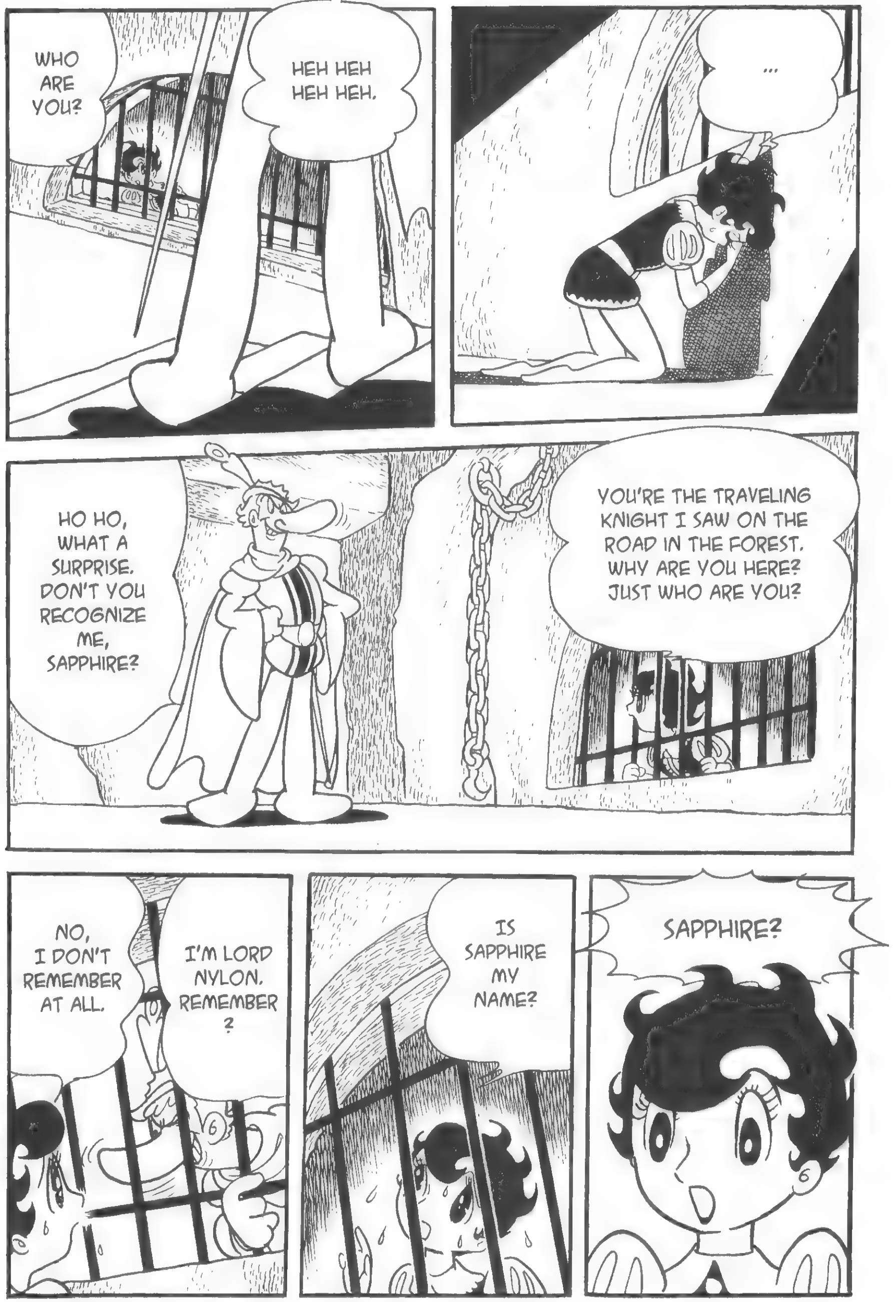
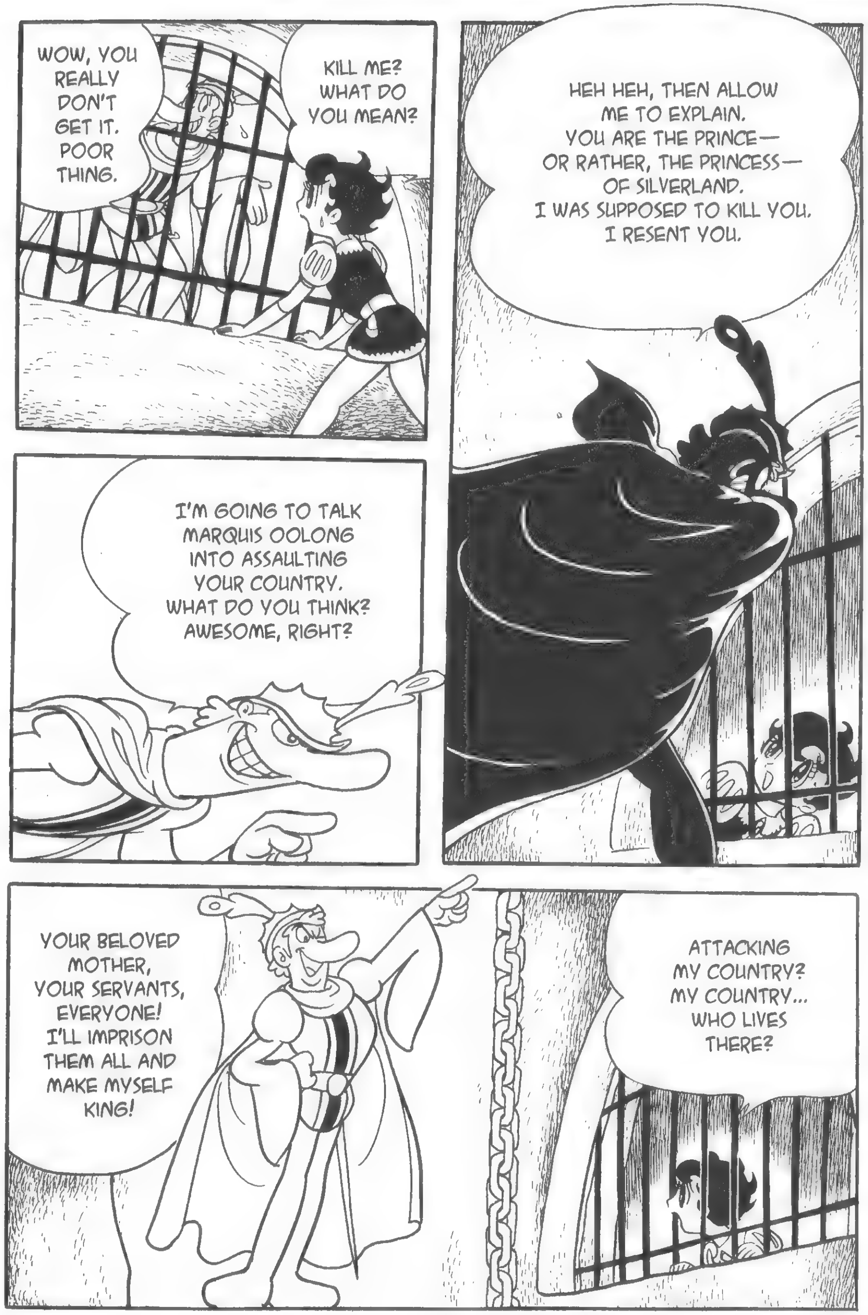
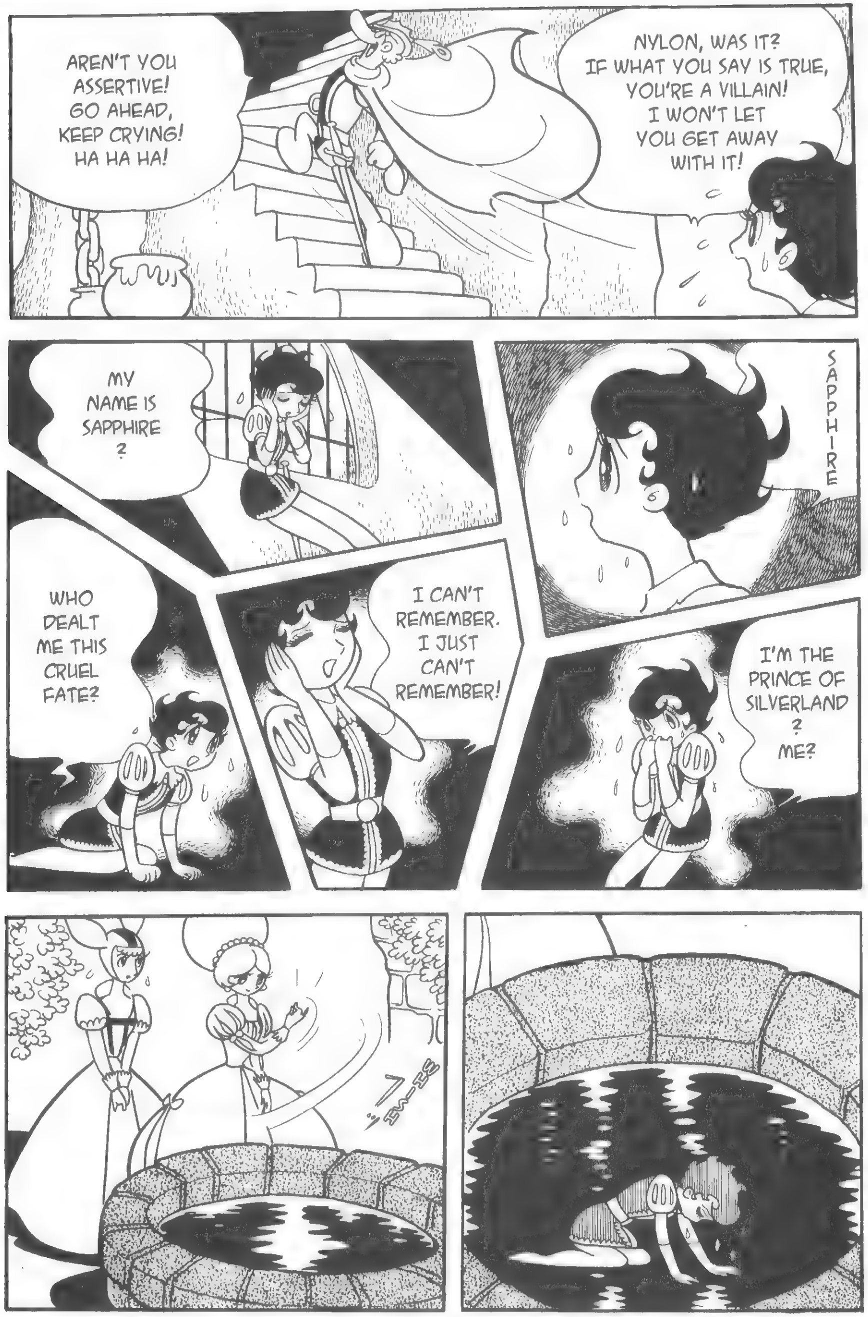
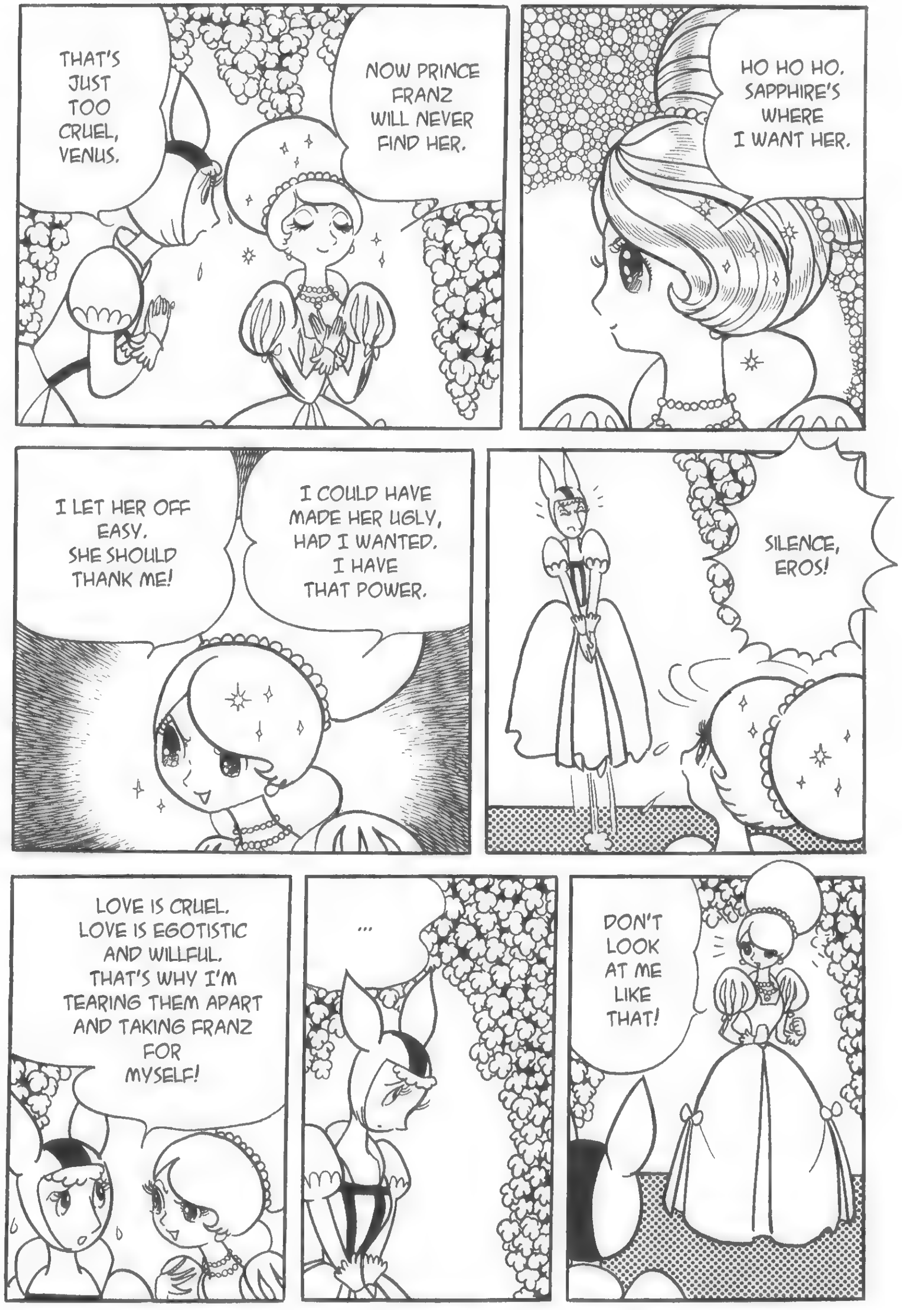
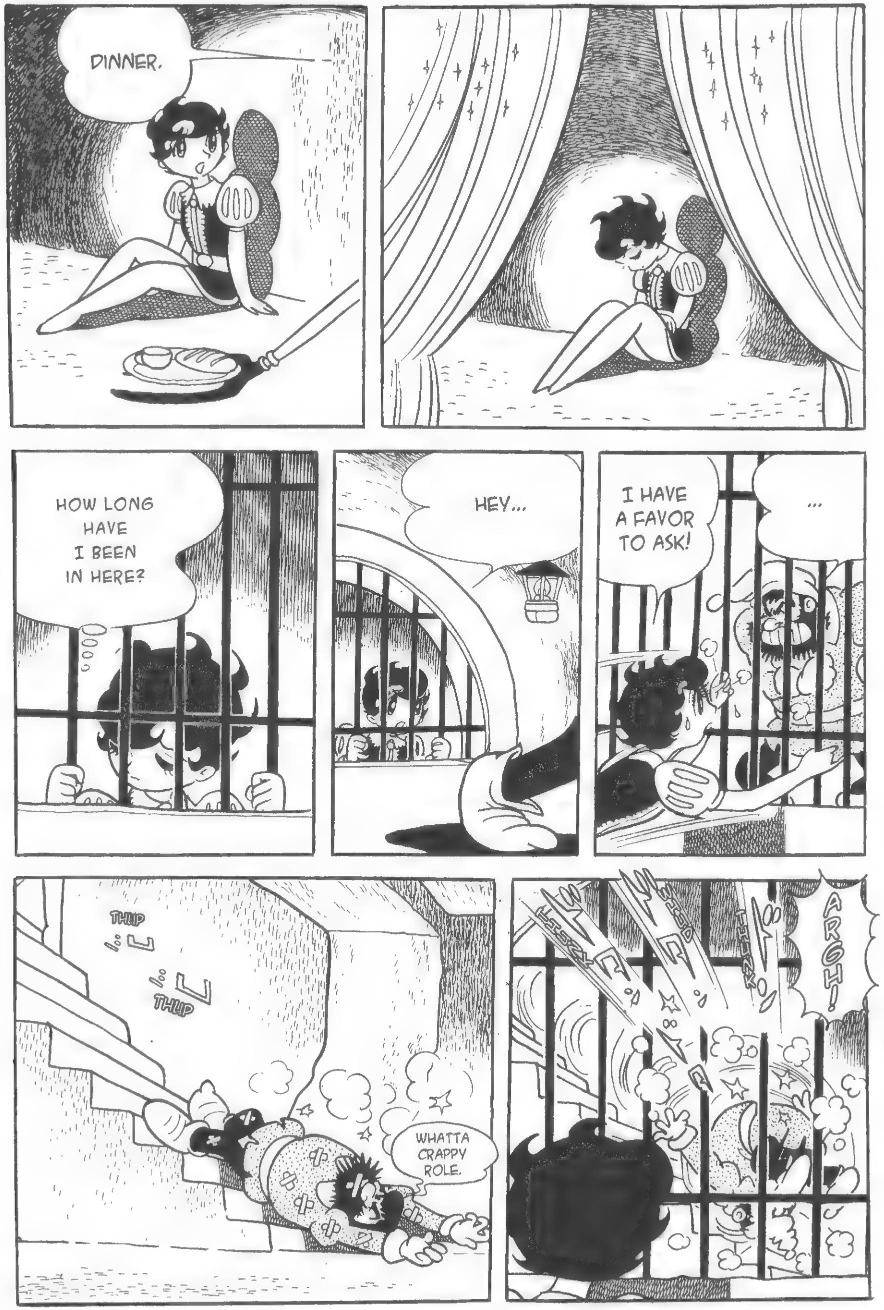
TROD
WHY OH WHY AM I IMPRISONED HERE? WHY DO YOU BEAR A GRUDGE AGAINST ME? TELL ME! PLEASE TELL ME!

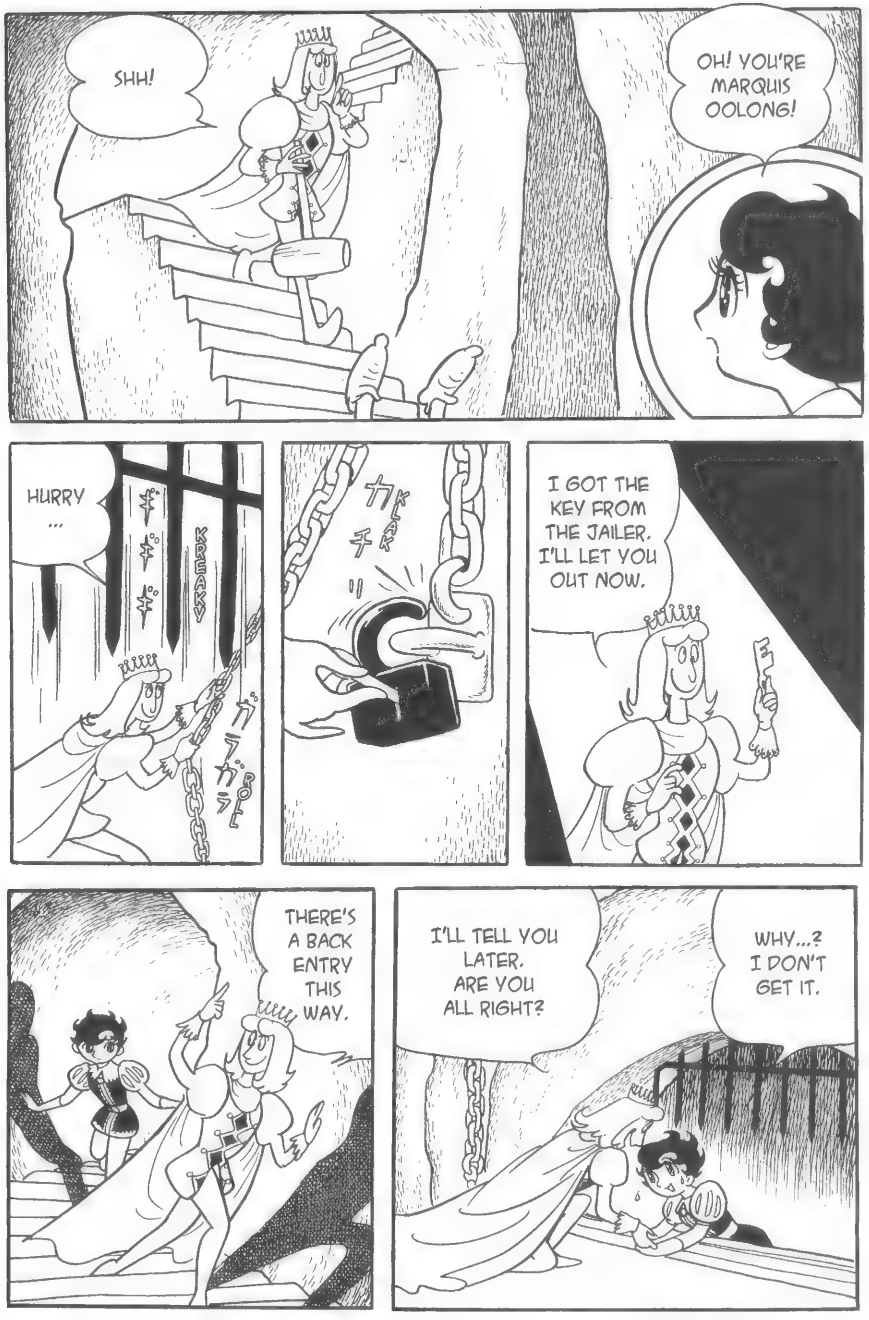

...
HEH HEH HEH HEH.
WHO ARE YOU?
YOU'RE THE TRAVELING KNIGHT I SAW ON THE ROAD IN THE FOREST. WHY ARE YOU HERE? JUST WHO ARE YOU?
HO HO, WHAT A SURPRISE. DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME, SAPPHIRE?
SAPPHIRE?
IS SAPPHIRE MY NAME?
I'M LORD NYLON. REMEMBER?
NO, I DON'T REMEMBER AT ALL.

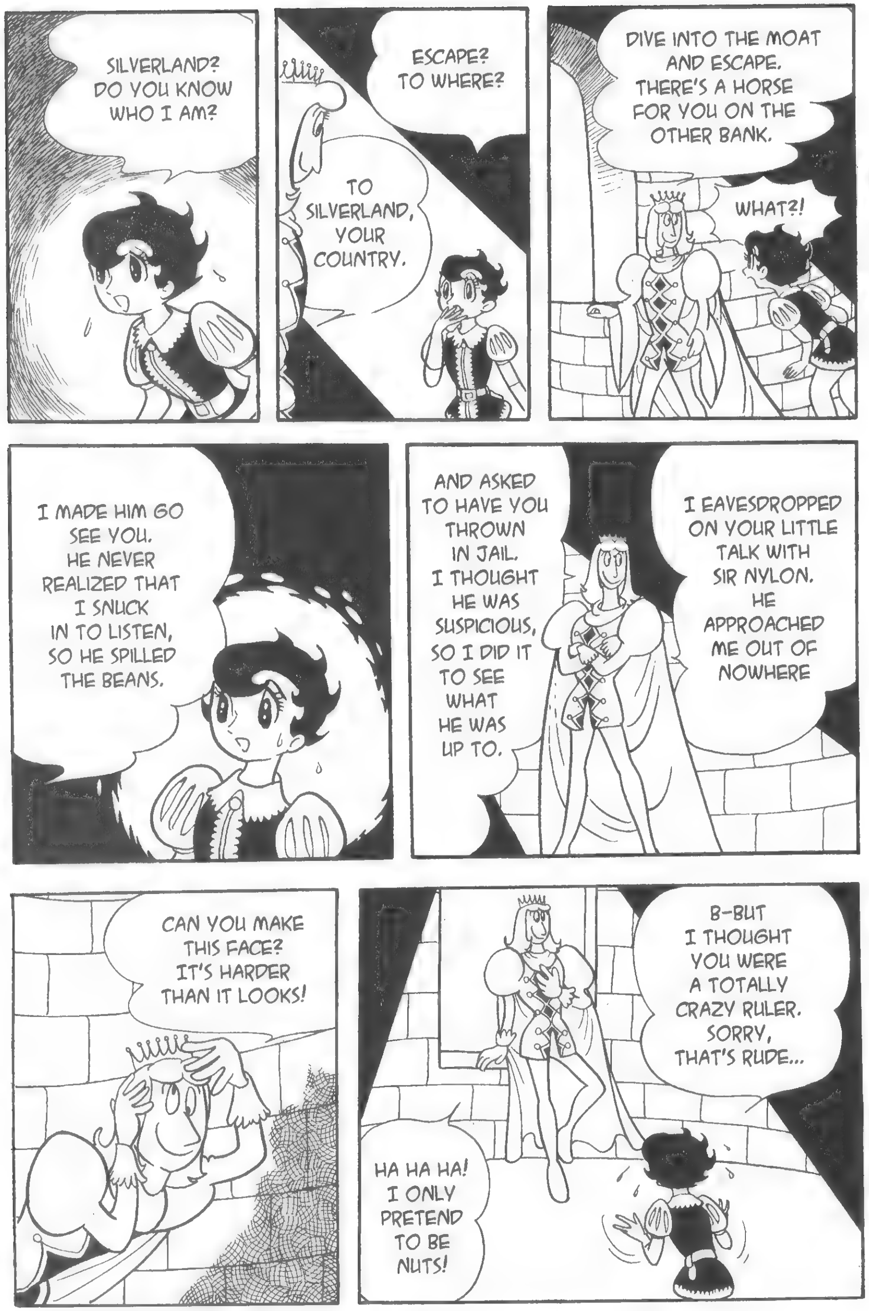

KILL ME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WOW, YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT. POOR THING.
HEH HEH, THEN ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN. YOU ARE THE PRINCE— OR RATHER, THE PRINCESS— OF SILVERLAND. I WAS SUPPOSED TO KILL YOU. I RESENT YOU.
I'M GOING TO TALK MARQUIS OOLONG INTO ASSAULTING YOUR COUNTRY. WHAT DO YOU THINK? AWESOME, RIGHT?
ATTACKING MY COUNTRY? MY COUNTRY... WHO LIVES THERE?
YOUR BELOVED MOTHER, YOUR SERVANTS, EVERYONE! I'LL IMPRISON THEM ALL AND MAKE MYSELF KING!

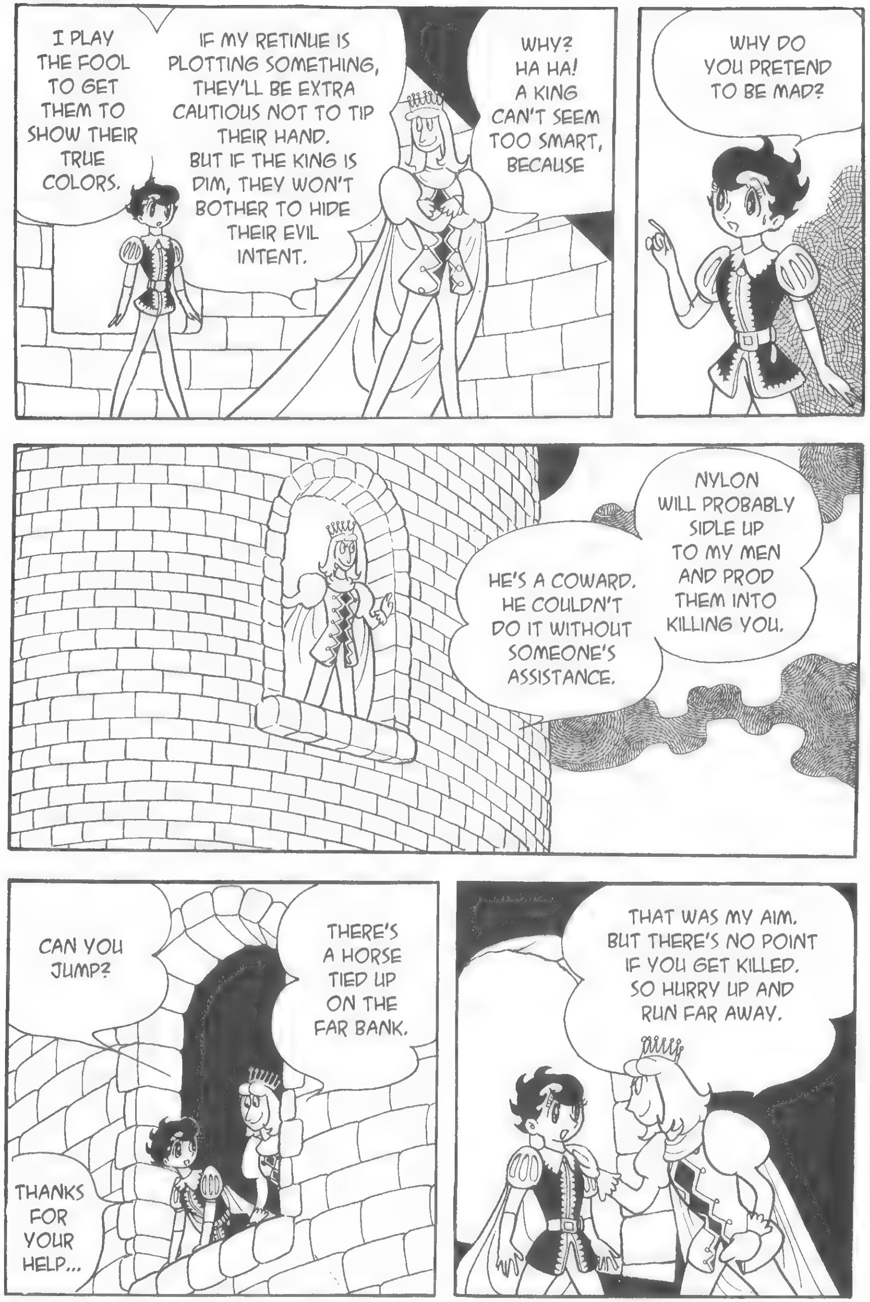

NYLON, WAS IT? IF WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, YOU'RE A VILLAIN! I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!
AREN'T YOU ASSERTIVE! GO AHEAD, KEEP CRYING! HA HA HA!
SAPPHIRE
MY NAME IS SAPPHIRE?
I'M THE PRINCE OF SILVERLAND? ME?
I CAN'T REMEMBER. I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER!
WHO DEALT ME THIS CRUEL FATE?

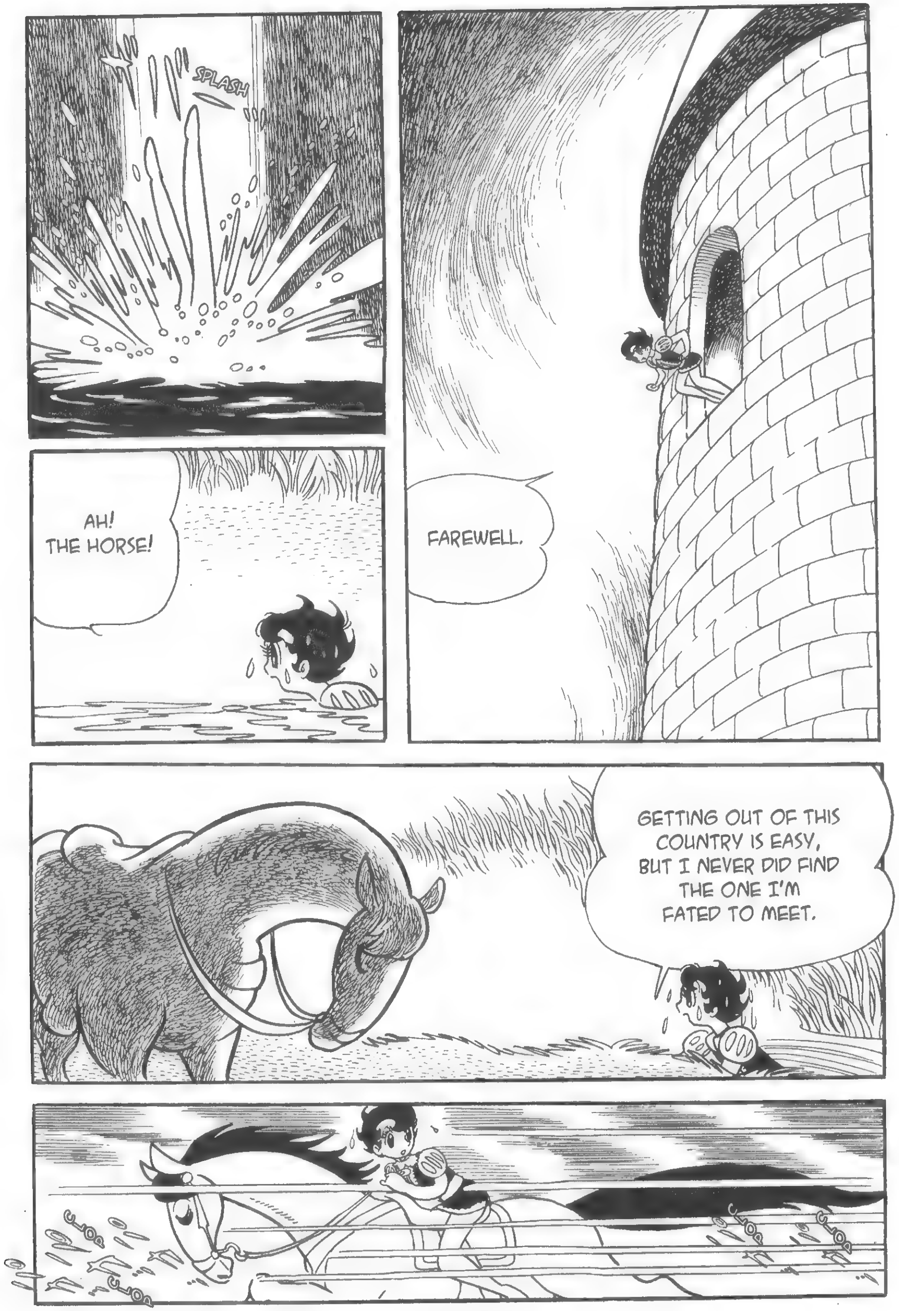

HO HO HO. SAPPHIRE'S WHERE I WANT HER.
NOW PRINCE FRANZ WILL NEVER FIND HER.
THAT'S JUST TOO CRUEL, VENUS.
SILENCE, EROS!
I COULD HAVE MADE HER UGLY, HAD I WANTED. I HAVE THAT POWER.
I LET HER OFF EASY. SHE SHOULD THANK ME!
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!
...
LOVE IS CRUEL. LOVE IS EGOTISTIC AND WILLFUL. THAT'S WHY I'M TEARING THEM APART AND TAKING FRANZ FOR MYSELF!

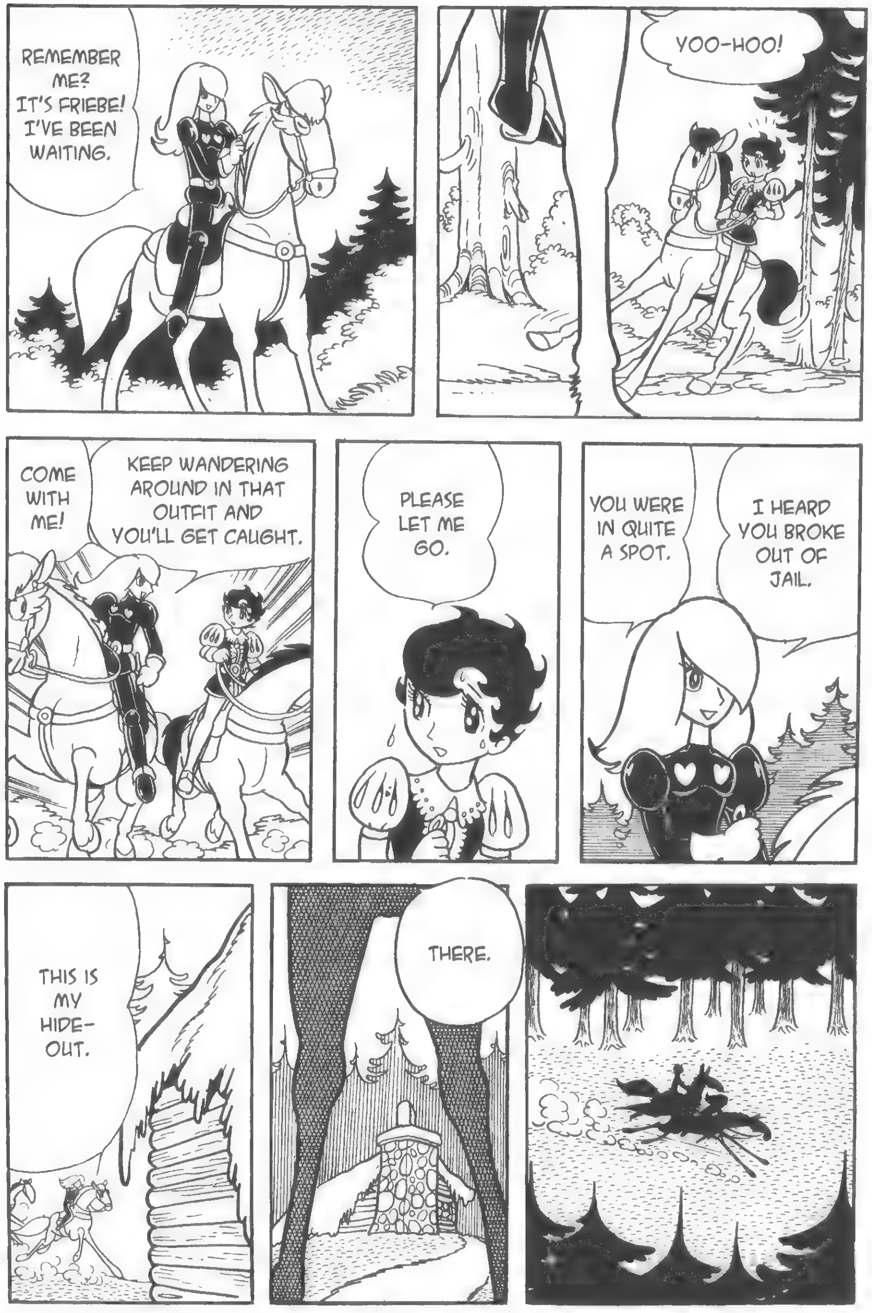

DINNER.
...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK!
HEY...
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN IN HERE?
ARGH!
THUNK!
SHUD
KICK
THIP
THIP
WHATTA CRAPPY ROLE.

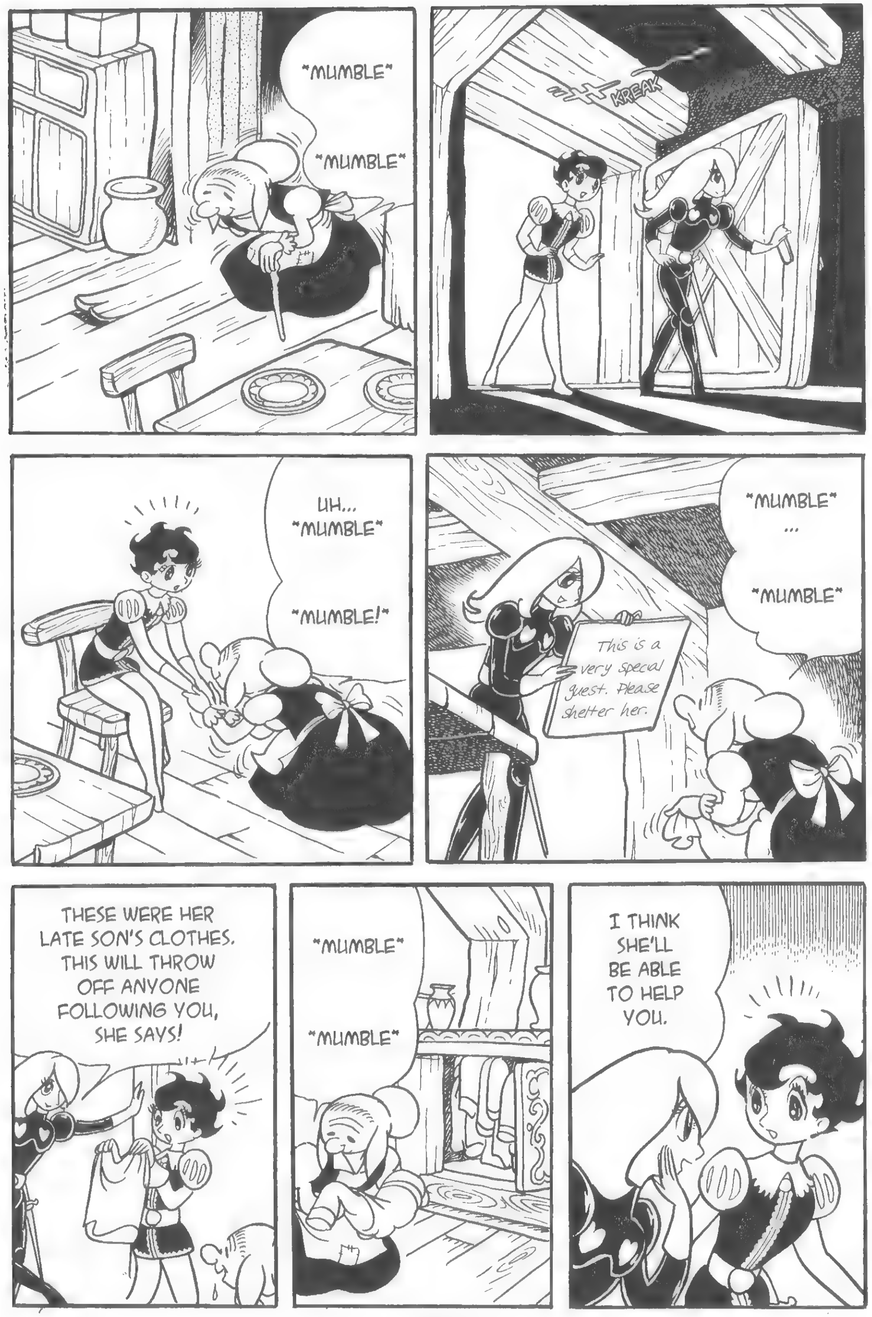

OH! YOU'RE MARQUIS OOLONG!
SHH!
I GOT THE KEY FROM THE JAILER. I'LL LET YOU OUT NOW.
カチッ KLAK
HURRY ...
ギ ギ ギ KREAKY
ガラガラ ROLL
WHY...? I DON'T GET IT.
I'LL TELL YOU LATER. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THERE'S A BACK ENTRY THIS WAY.

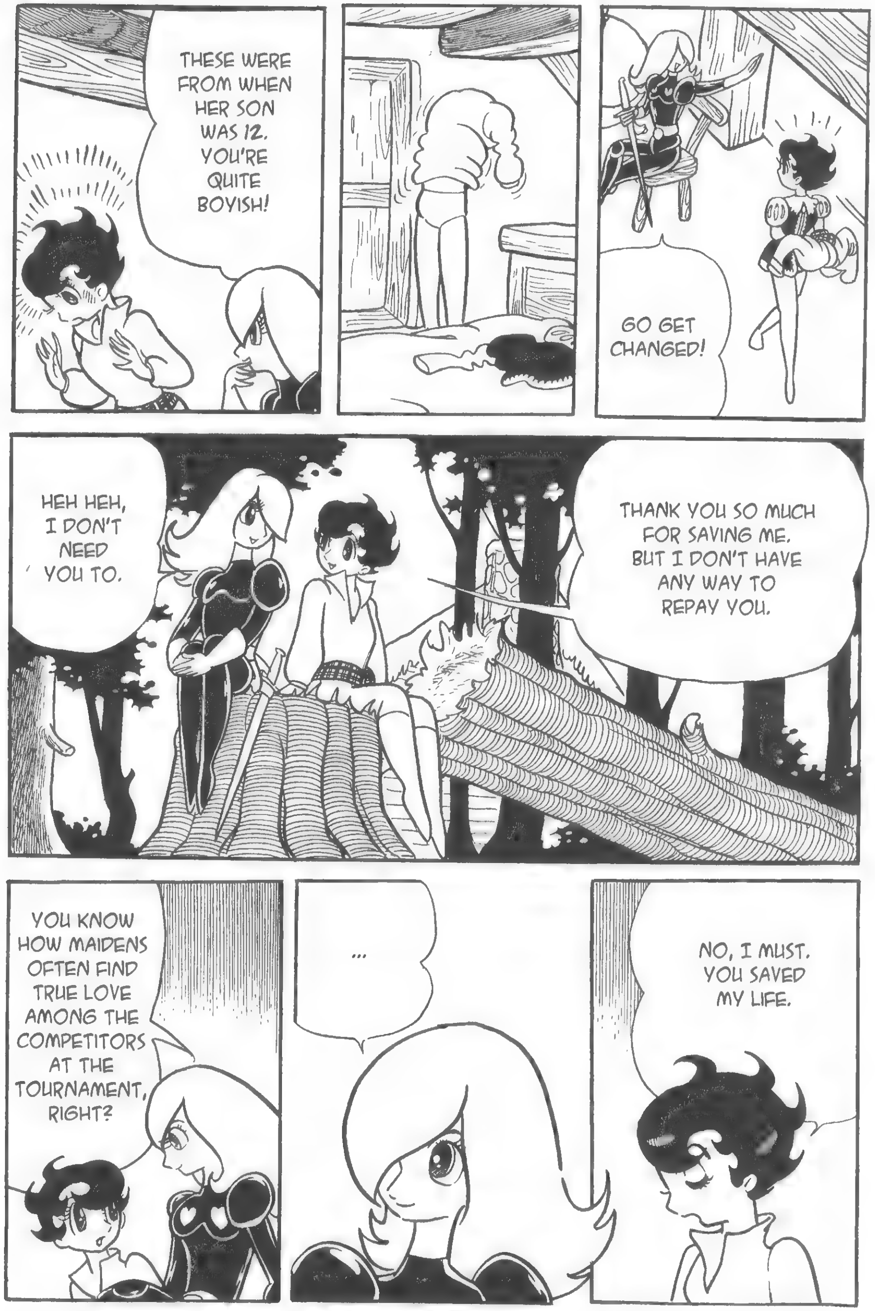

DIVE INTO THE MOAT AND ESCAPE. THERE'S A HORSE FOR YOU ON THE OTHER BANK.
WHAT?!
ESCAPE? TO WHERE?
TO SILVERLAND, YOUR COUNTRY.
SILVERLAND? DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I EAVESDROPPED ON YOUR LITTLE TALK WITH SIR NYLON. HE APPROACHED ME OUT OF NOWHERE
AND ASKED TO HAVE YOU THROWN IN JAIL. I THOUGHT HE WAS SUSPICIOUS, SO I DID IT TO SEE WHAT HE WAS UP TO.
I MADE HIM GO SEE YOU. HE NEVER REALIZED THAT I SNUCK IN TO LISTEN, SO HE SPILLED THE BEANS.
B-BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TOTALLY CRAZY RULER. SORRY, THAT'S RUDE...
HA HA HA! I ONLY PRETEND TO BE NUTS!
CAN YOU MAKE THIS FACE? IT'S HARDER THAN IT LOOKS!

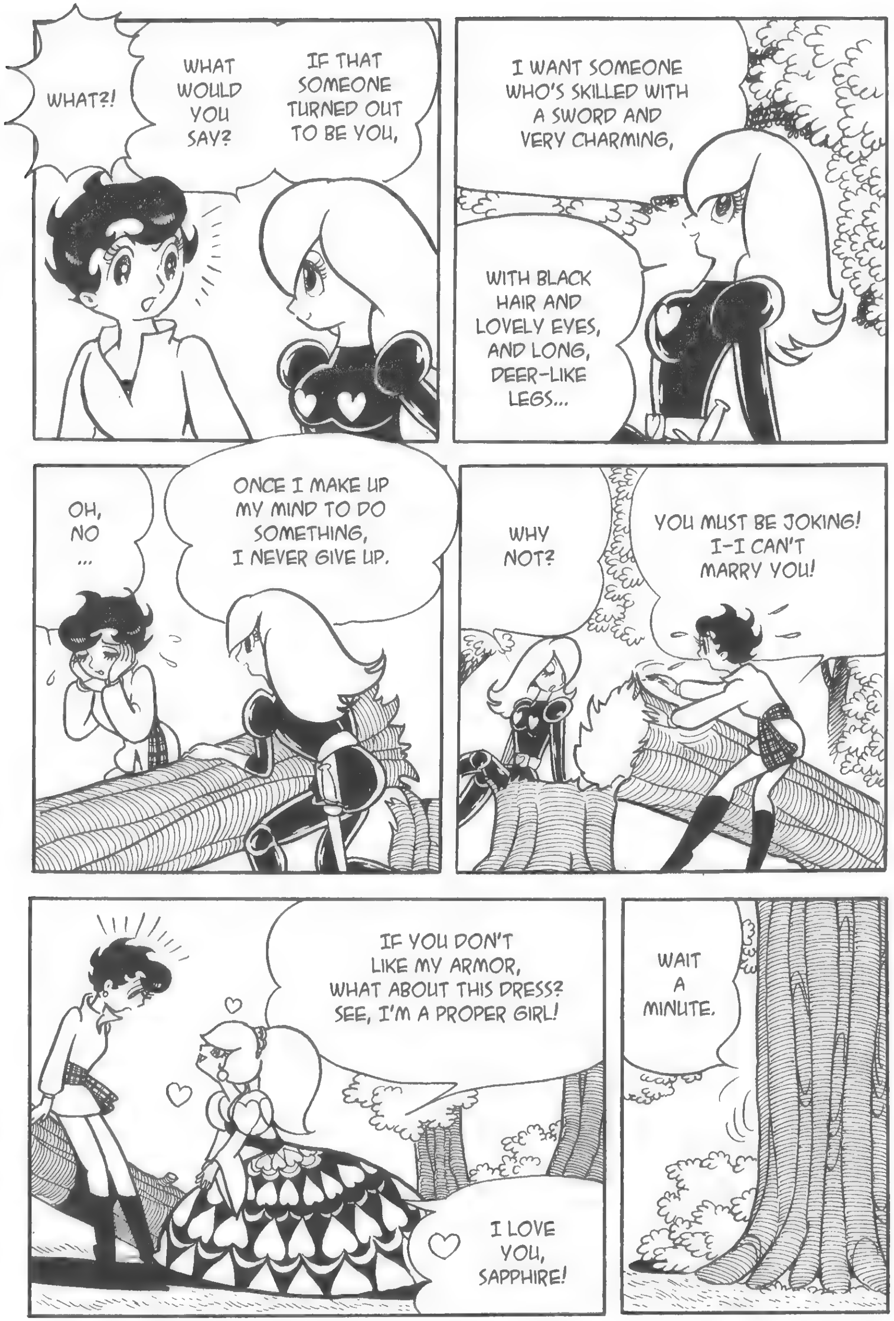

WHY DO YOU PRETEND TO BE MAD?
WHY? HA HA! A KING CAN'T SEEM TOO SMART, BECAUSE
IF MY RETINUE IS PLOTTING SOMETHING, THEY'LL BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS NOT TO TIP THEIR HAND. BUT IF THE KING IS DIM, THEY WON'T BOTHER TO HIDE THEIR EVIL INTENT.
I PLAY THE FOOL TO GET THEM TO SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS.
NYLON WILL PROBABLY SIDLE UP TO MY MEN AND PROD THEM INTO KILLING YOU.
HE'S A COWARD. HE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT SOMEONE'S ASSISTANCE.
THAT WAS MY AIM. BUT THERE'S NO POINT IF YOU GET KILLED. SO HURRY UP AND RUN FAR AWAY.
THERE'S A HORSE TIED UP ON THE FAR BANK.
CAN YOU JUMP?
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP...

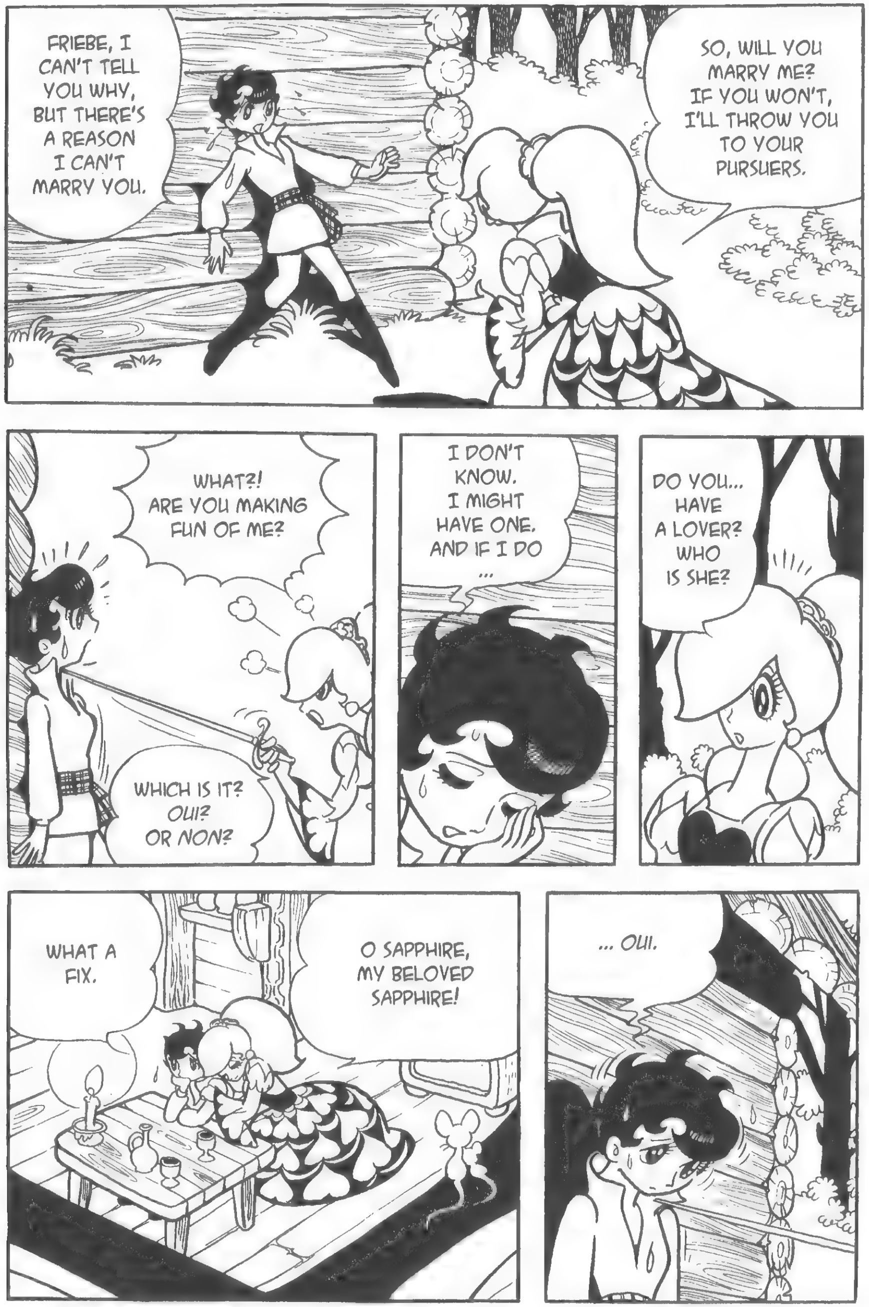

FAREWELL.
SPLASH
AH! THE HORSE!
GETTING OUT OF THIS COUNTRY IS EASY, BUT I NEVER DID FIND THE ONE I'M FATED TO MEET.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

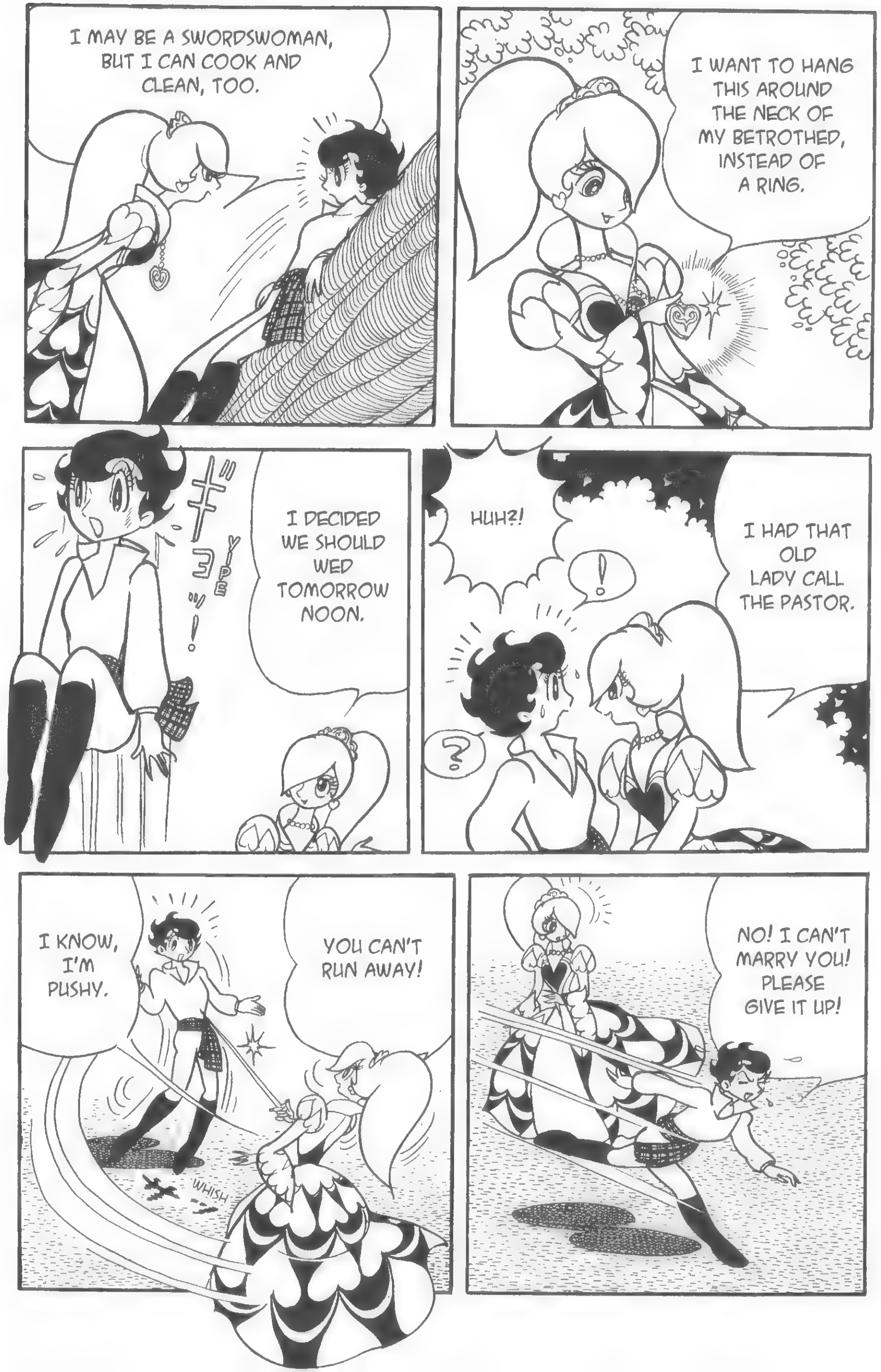

YOO-HOO!
REMEMBER ME? IT'S FRIEBE! I'VE BEEN WAITING.
I HEARD YOU BROKE OUT OF JAIL.
YOU WERE IN QUITE A SPOT.
PLEASE LET ME GO.
KEEP WANDERING AROUND IN THAT OUTFIT AND YOU'LL GET CAUGHT.
COME WITH ME!
THERE.
THIS IS MY HIDE-OUT.

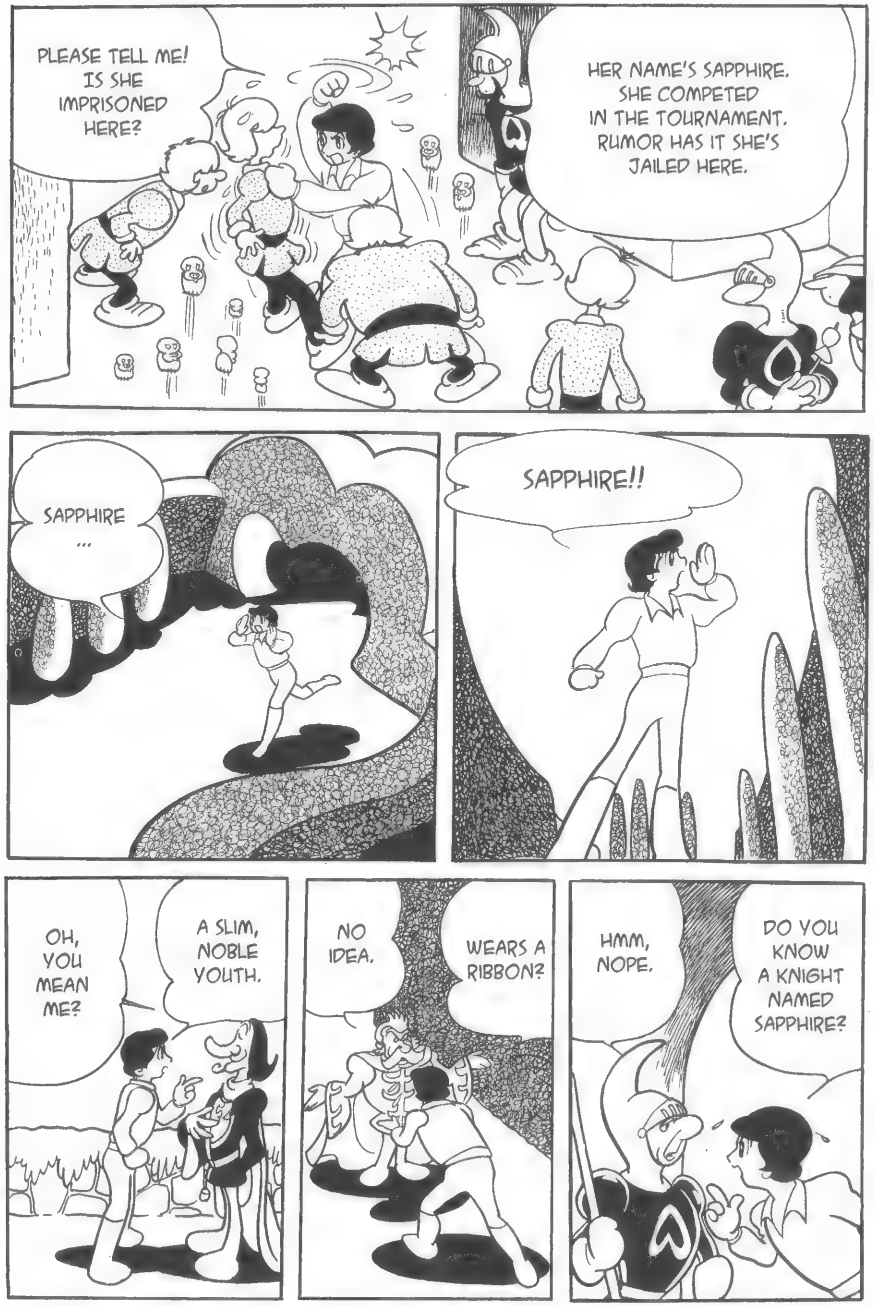

KREAK
"MUMBLE"
"MUMBLE"
"MUMBLE" ...
"MUMBLE"
This is a very special guest. Please shelter her.
UH... "MUMBLE"
"MUMBLE!"
I THINK SHE'LL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.
"MUMBLE"
"MUMBLE"
THESE WERE HER LATE SON'S CLOTHES. THIS WILL THROW OFF ANYONE FOLLOWING YOU, SHE SAYS!

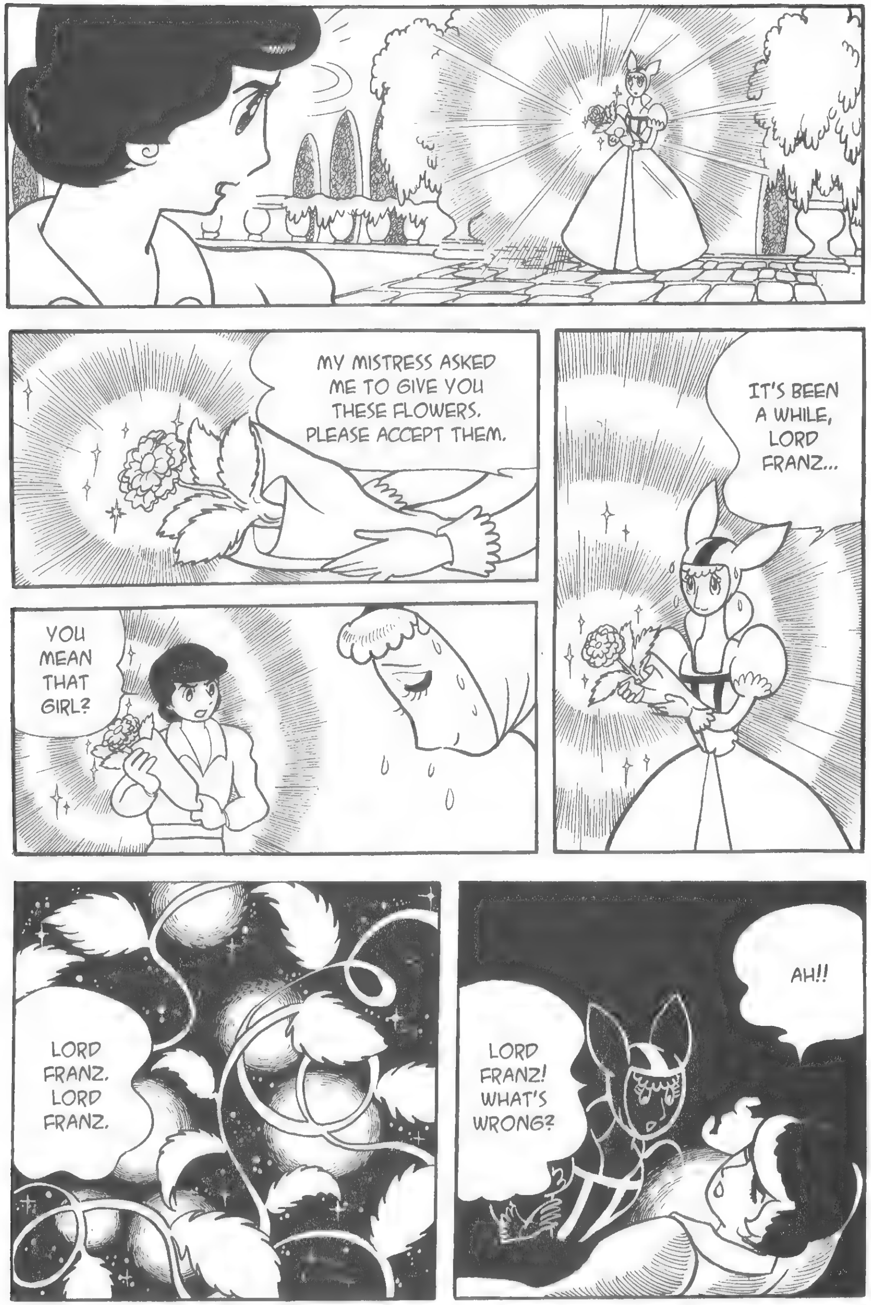

GO GET CHANGED!
THESE WERE FROM WHEN HER SON WAS 12. YOU'RE QUITE BOYISH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING ME. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY WAY TO REPAY YOU.
HEH HEH, I DON'T NEED YOU TO.
NO, I MUST. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
...
YOU KNOW HOW MAIDENS OFTEN FIND TRUE LOVE AMONG THE COMPETITORS AT THE TOURNAMENT, RIGHT?

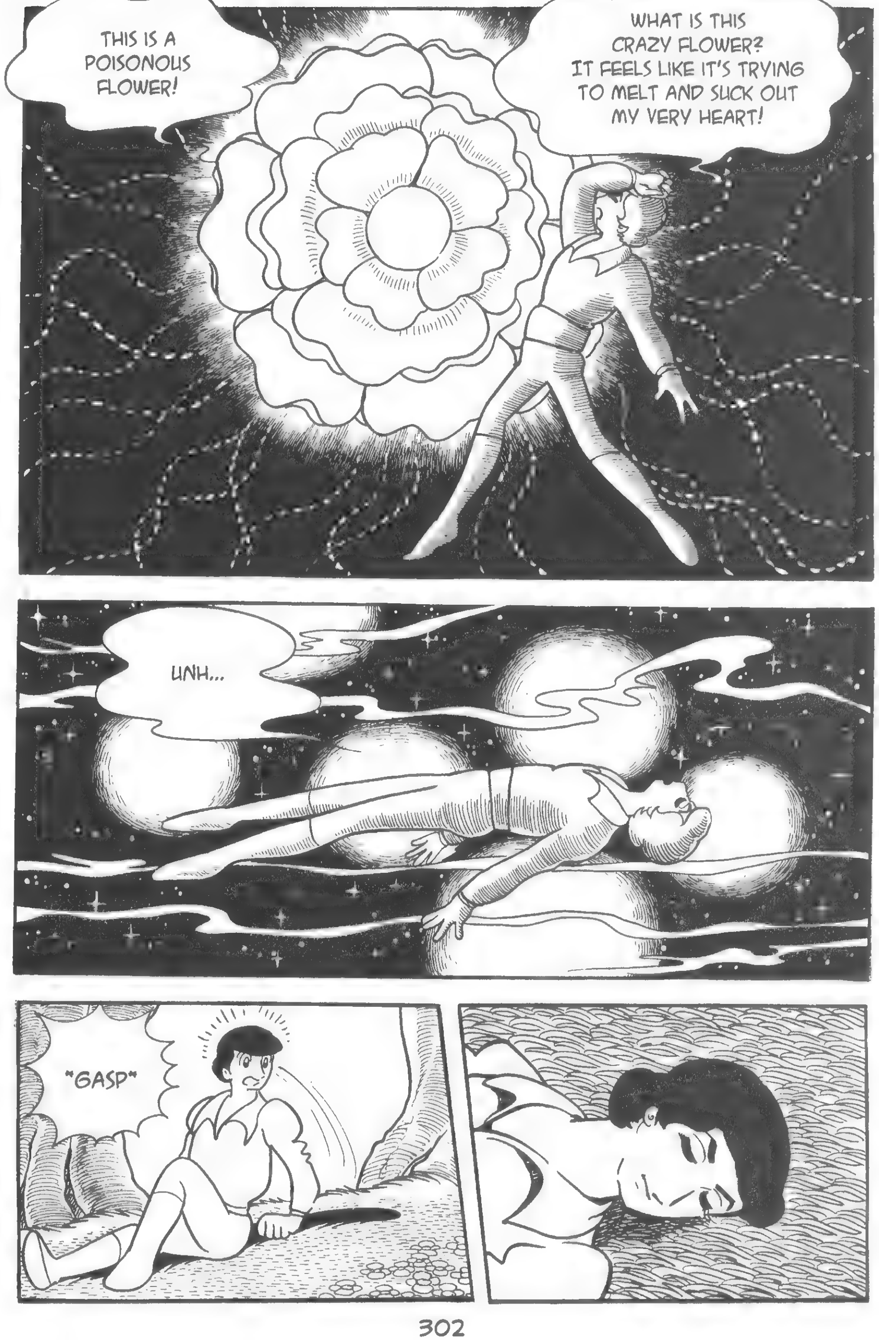

I WANT SOMEONE WHO'S SKILLED WITH A SWORD AND VERY CHARMING,
WITH BLACK HAIR AND LOVELY EYES, AND LONG, DEER-LIKE LEGS...
IF THAT SOMEONE TURNED OUT TO BE YOU,
WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?
WHAT?!
YOU MUST BE JOKING! I-I CAN'T MARRY YOU!
WHY NOT?
ONCE I MAKE UP MY MIND TO DO SOMETHING, I NEVER GIVE UP.
OH, NO ...
WAIT A MINUTE.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY ARMOR, WHAT ABOUT THIS DRESS? SEE, I'M A PROPER GIRL!
I LOVE YOU, SAPPHIRE!

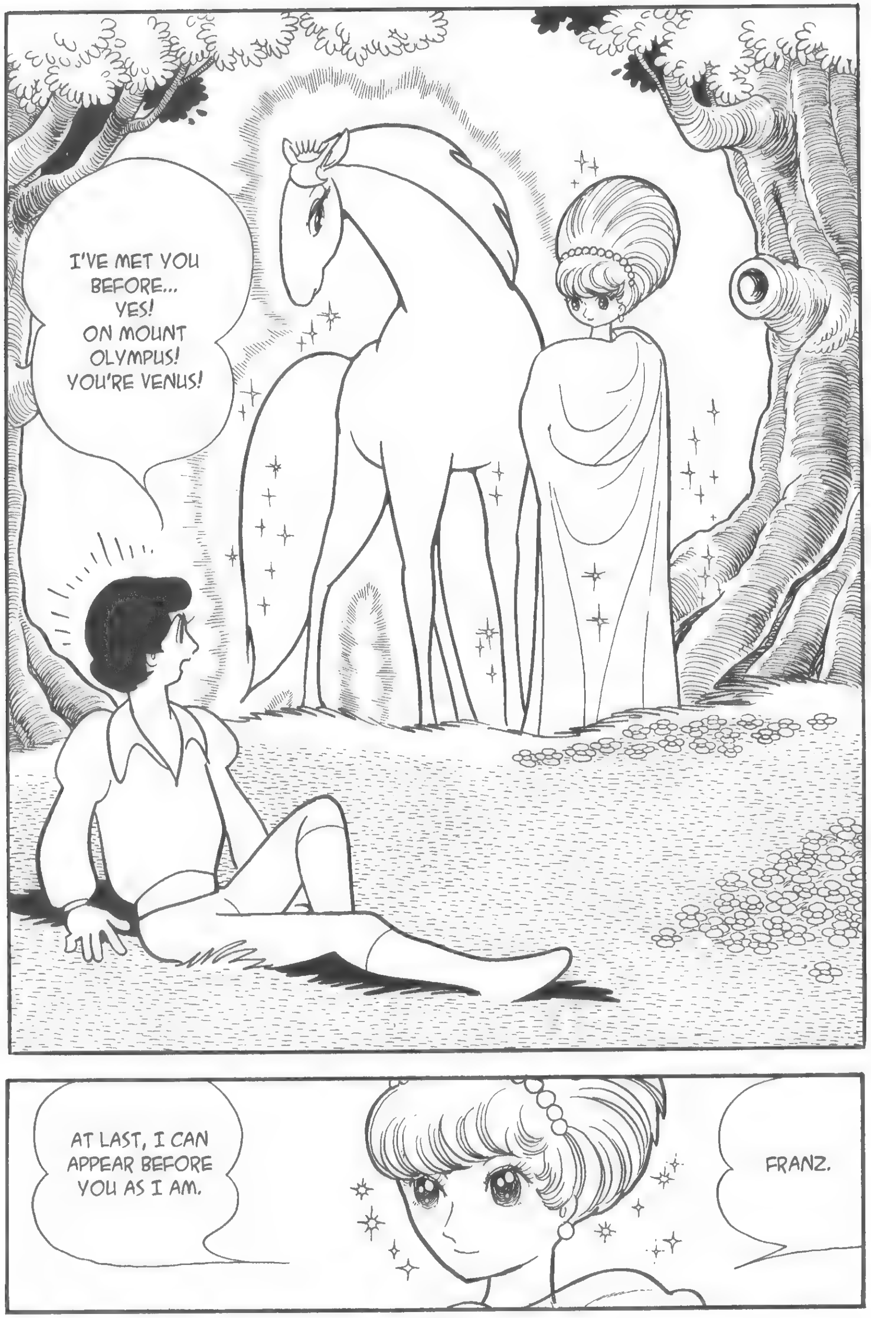

FRIEBE, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHY, BUT THERE'S A REASON I CAN'T MARRY YOU.
SO, WILL YOU MARRY ME? IF YOU WON'T, I'LL THROW YOU TO YOUR PURSUERS.
WHAT?! ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
WHICH IS IT? OUI? OR NON?
I DON'T KNOW. I MIGHT HAVE ONE. AND IF I DO ...
DO YOU... HAVE A LOVER? WHO IS SHE?
WHAT A FIX.
O SAPPHIRE, MY BELOVED SAPPHIRE!
... OUI.

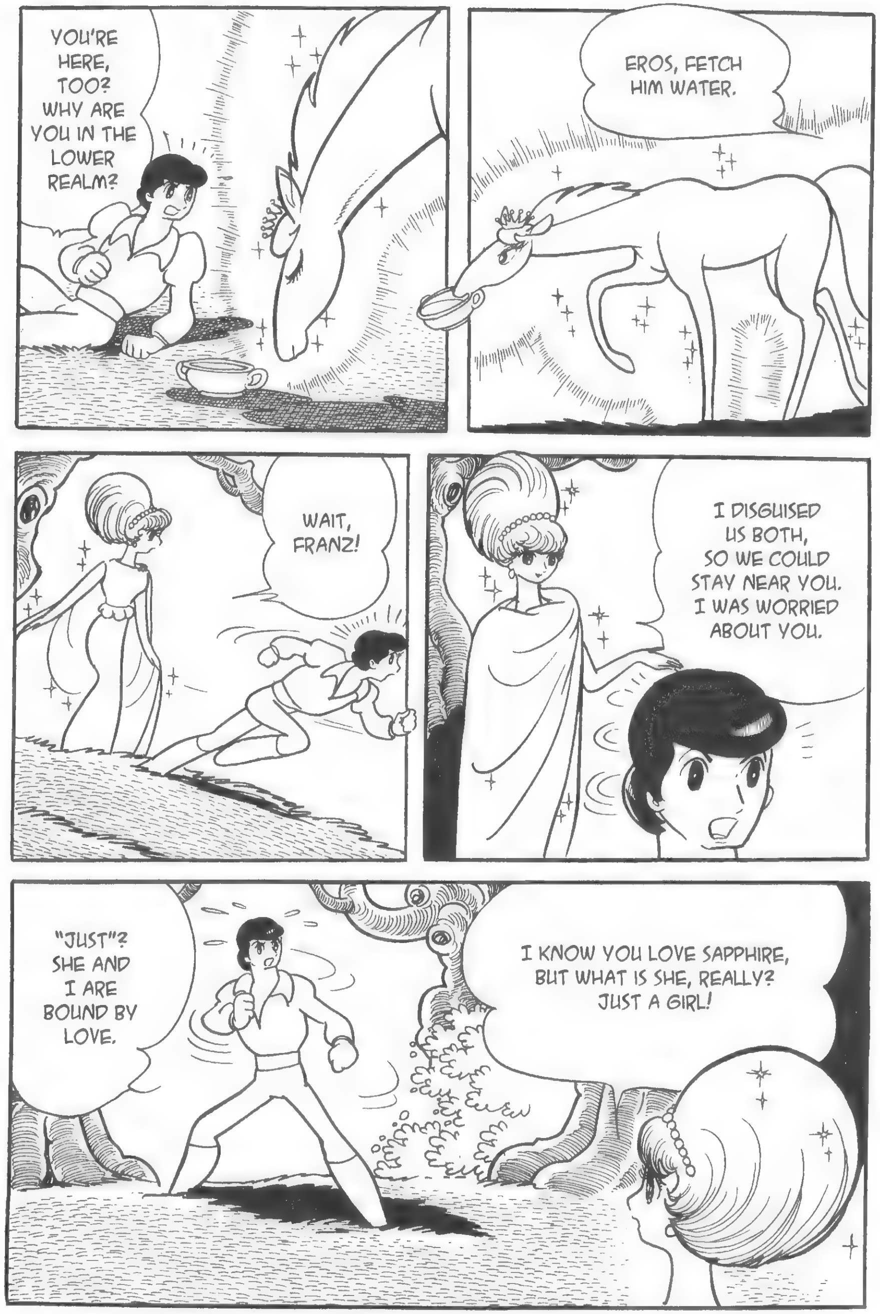

I MAY BE A SWORDSWOMAN, BUT I CAN COOK AND CLEAN, TOO.
I WANT TO HANG THIS AROUND THE NECK OF MY BETROTHED, INSTEAD OF A RING.
ギョッ!
YIPE
I DECIDED WE SHOULD WED TOMORROW NOON.
HUH?!
!
?
I HAD THAT OLD LADY CALL THE PASTOR.
I KNOW, I'M PUSHY.
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY!
WHISH
NO! I CAN'T MARRY YOU! PLEASE GIVE IT UP!

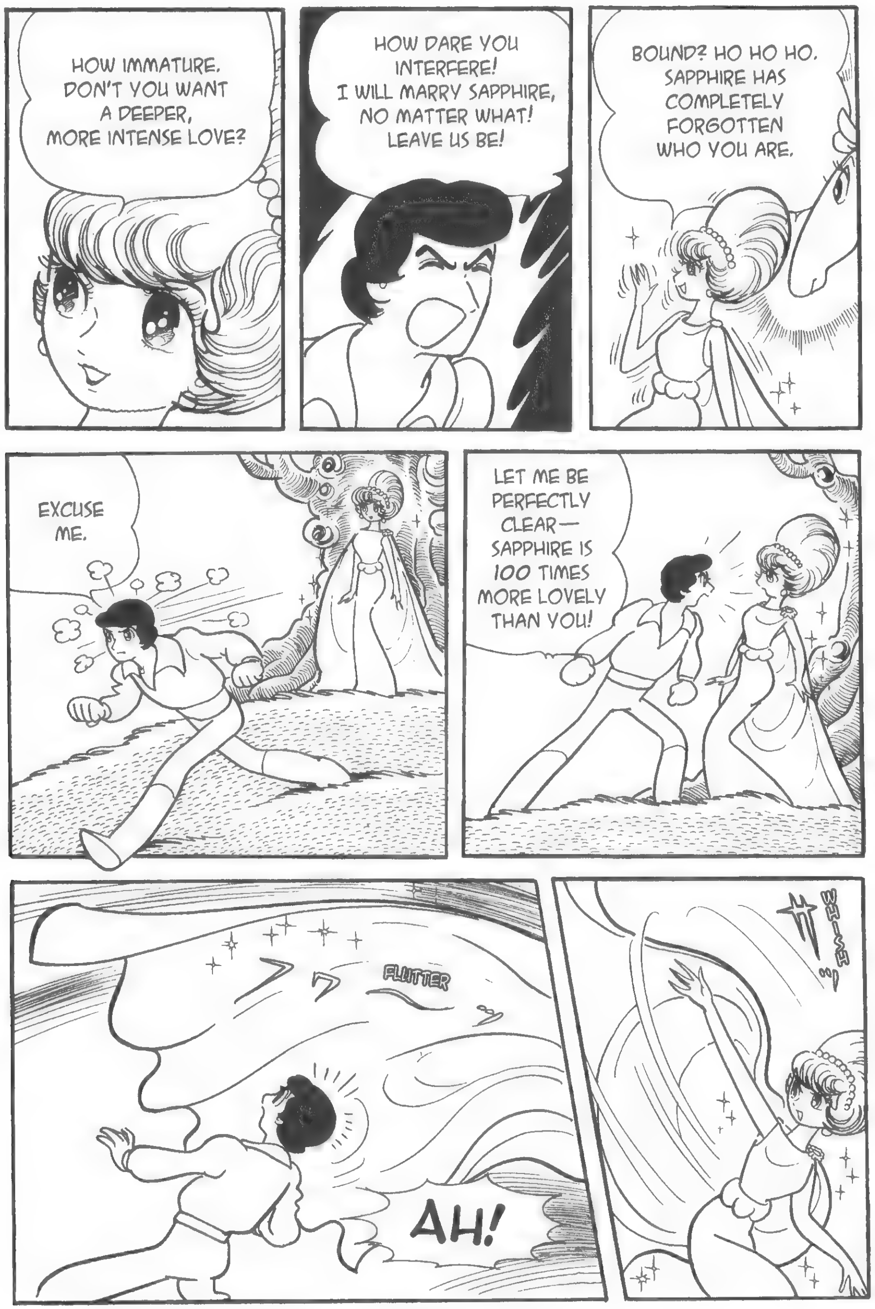

HER NAME'S SAPPHIRE. SHE COMPETED IN THE TOURNAMENT. RUMOR HAS IT SHE'S JAILED HERE.
PLEASE TELL ME! IS SHE IMPRISONED HERE?
SAPPHIRE!!
SAPPHIRE ...
DO YOU KNOW A KNIGHT NAMED SAPPHIRE?
HMM, NOPE.
WEARS A RIBBON?
NO IDEA.
A SLIM, NOBLE YOUTH.
OH, YOU MEAN ME?

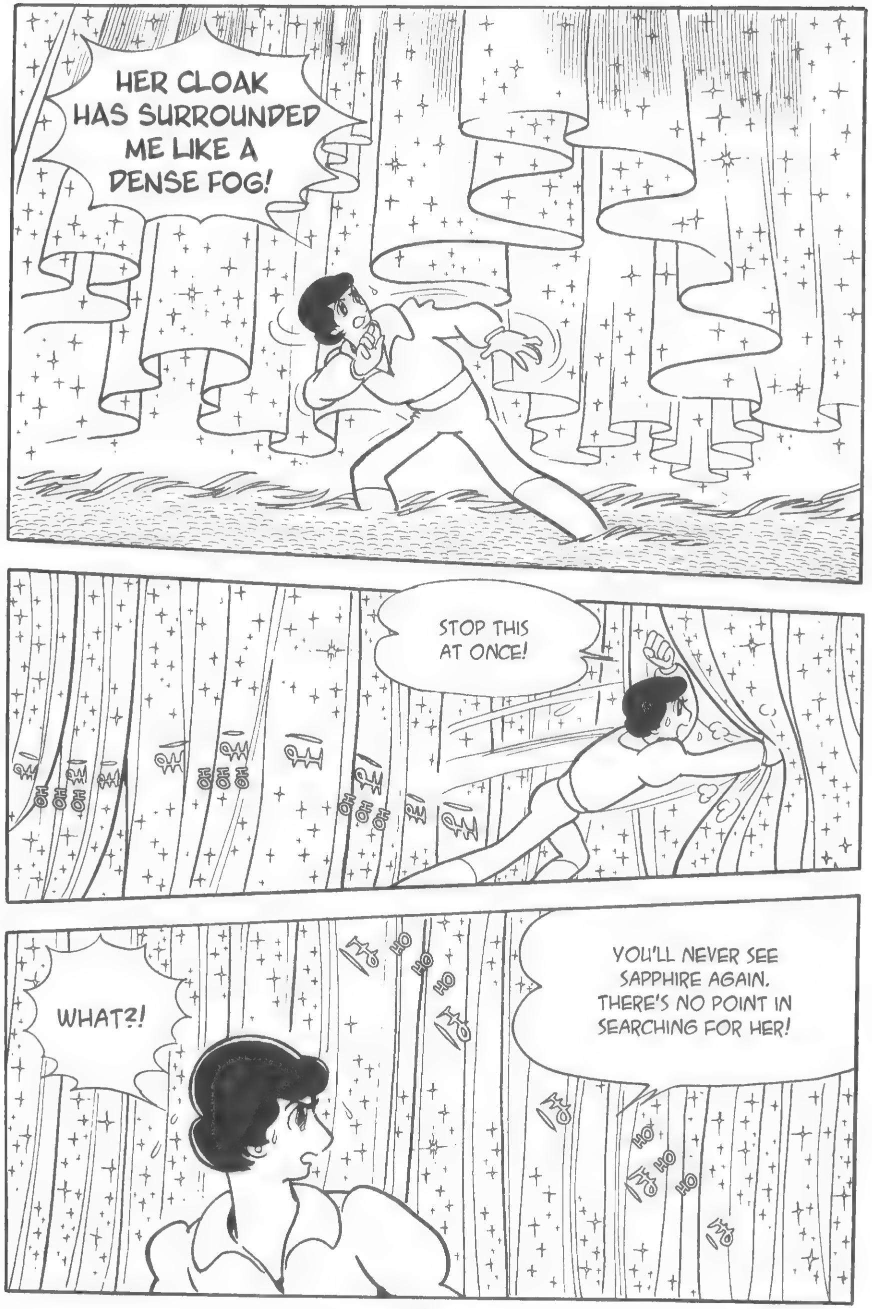

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LORD FRANZ...
MY MISTRESS ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THESE FLOWERS. PLEASE ACCEPT THEM.
YOU MEAN THAT GIRL?
AH!!
LORD FRANZ! WHAT'S WRONG?
LORD FRANZ. LORD FRANZ.

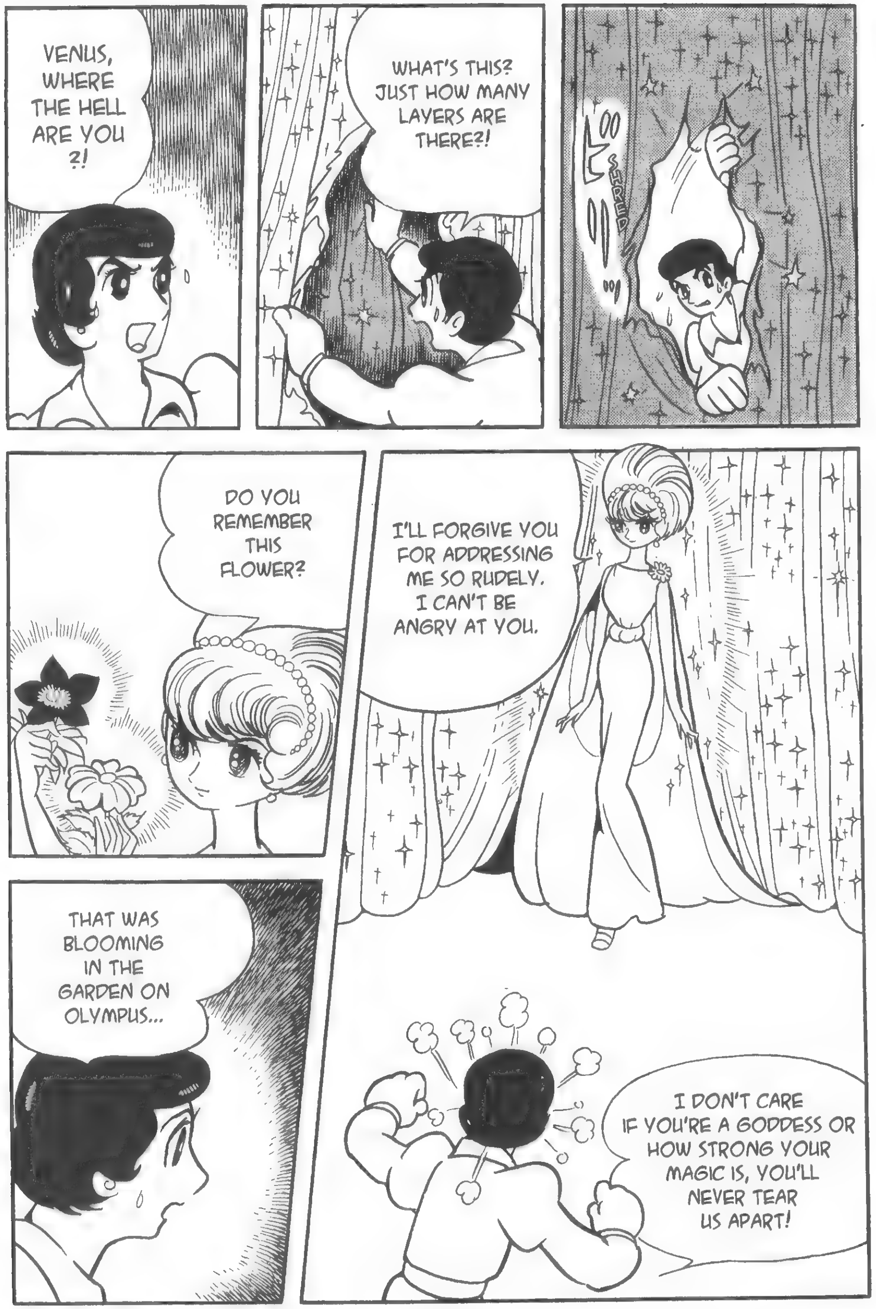

WHAT IS THIS CRAZY FLOWER? IT FEELS LIKE IT'S TRYING TO MELT AND SUCK OUT MY VERY HEART!
THIS IS A POISONOUS FLOWER!
UNH...
"GASP"

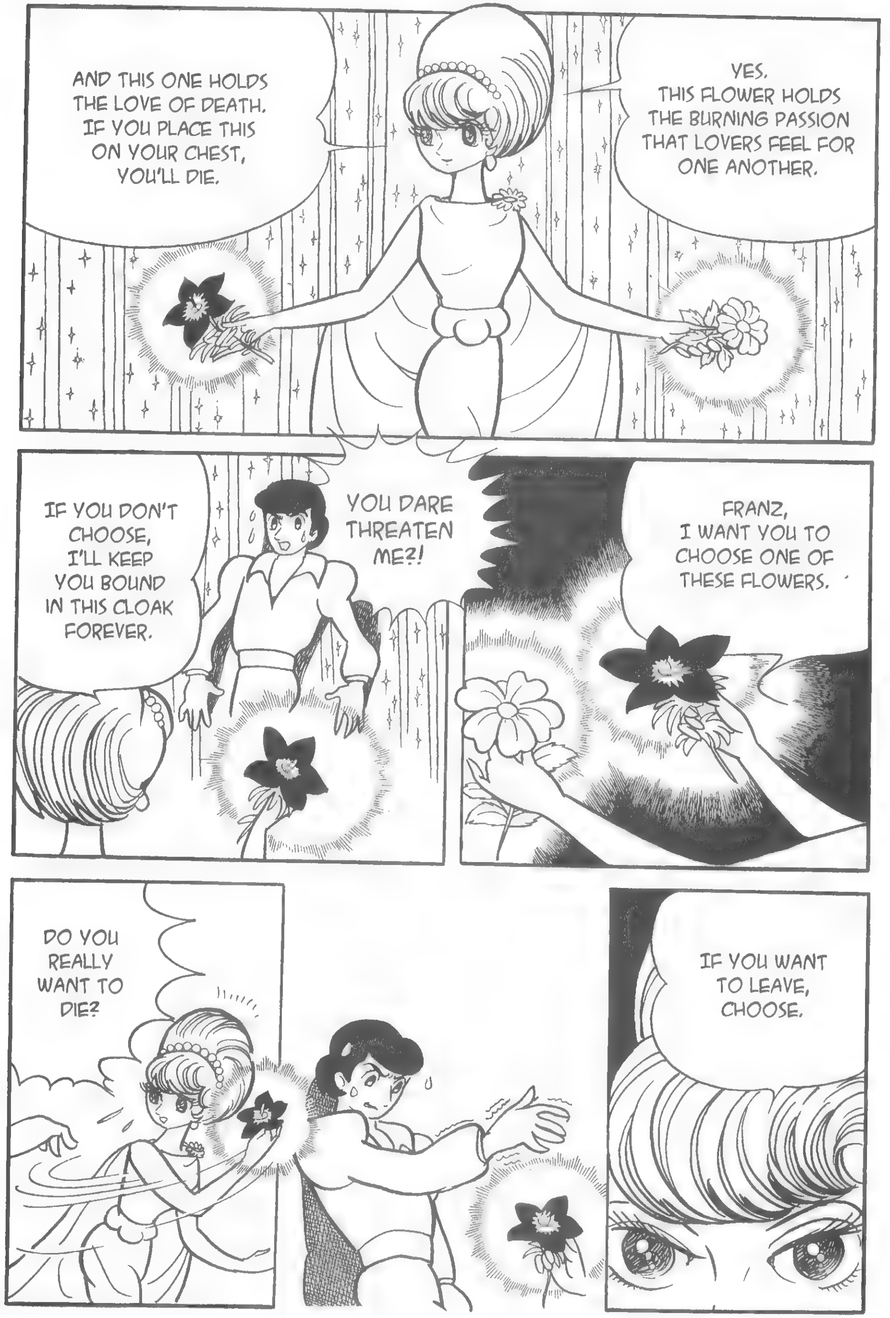

I'VE MET YOU BEFORE... YES! ON MOUNT OLYMPUS! YOU'RE VENUS!
FRANZ.
AT LAST, I CAN APPEAR BEFORE YOU AS I AM.

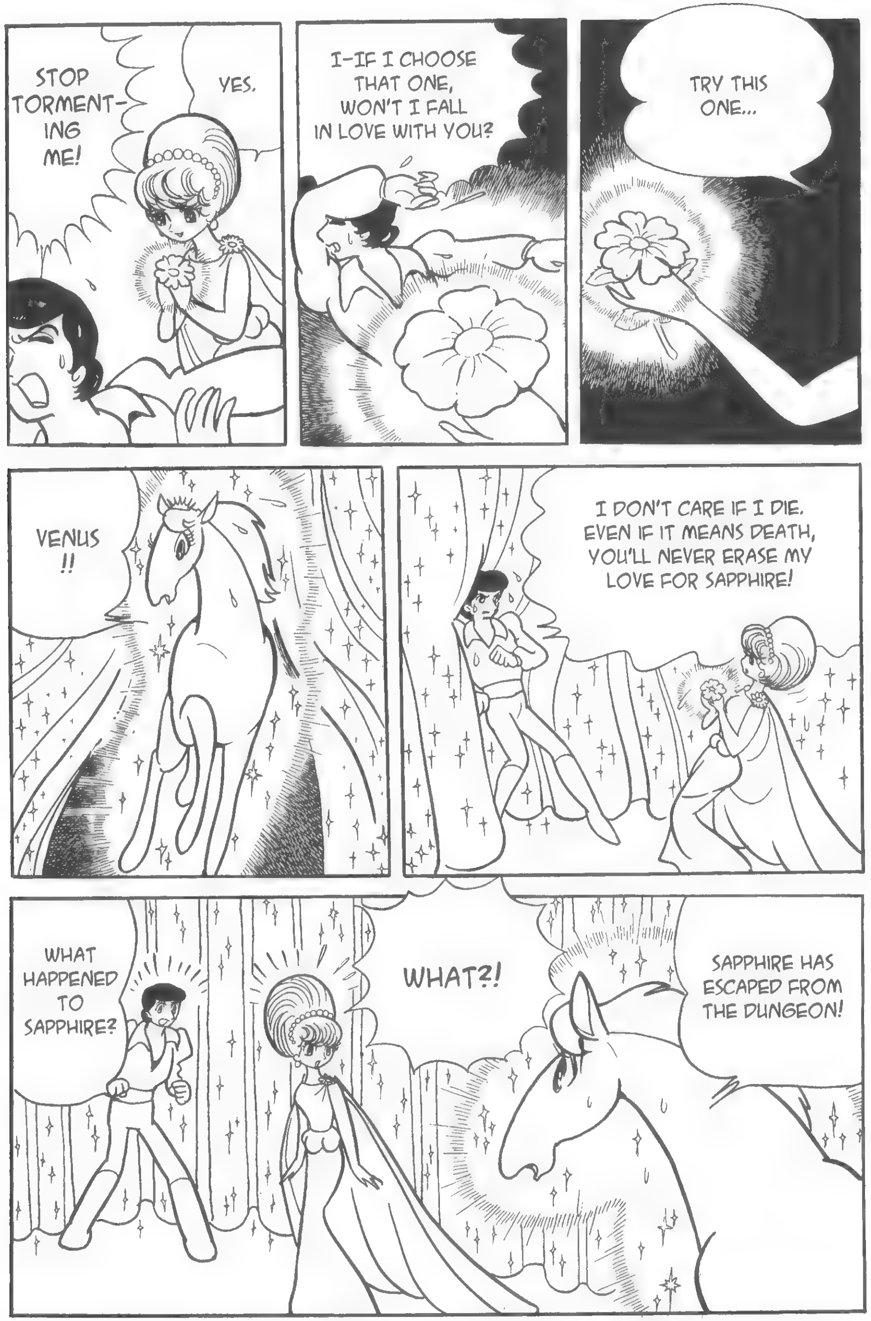

EROS, FETCH HIM WATER.
YOU'RE HERE, TOO? WHY ARE YOU IN THE LOWER REALM?
I DISGUISED US BOTH, SO WE COULD STAY NEAR YOU. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
WAIT, FRANZ!
I KNOW YOU LOVE SAPPHIRE, BUT WHAT IS SHE, REALLY? JUST A GIRL!
"JUST"? SHE AND I ARE BOUND BY LOVE.

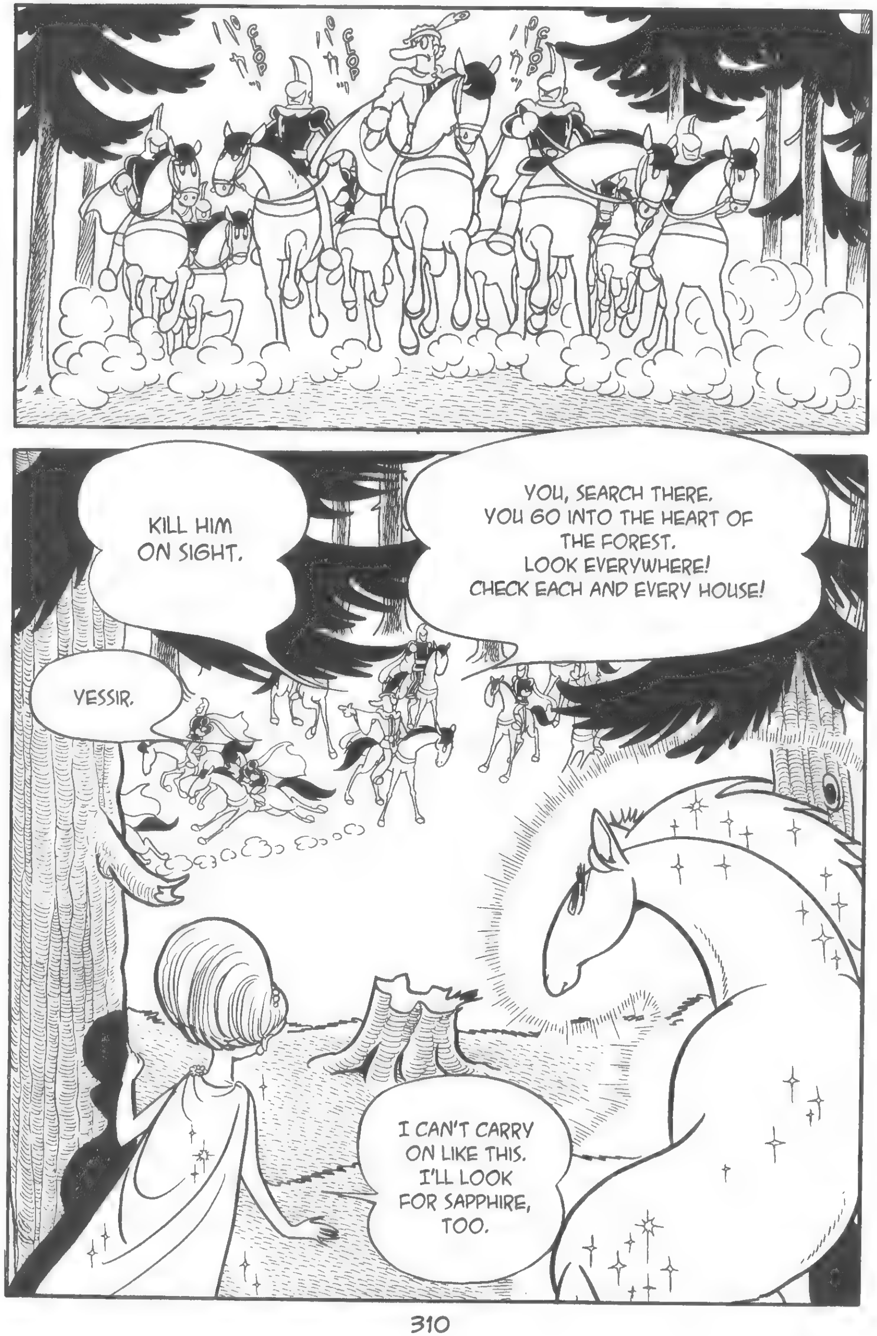

BOUND? HO HO HO. SAPPHIRE HAS COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN WHO YOU ARE.
HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE! I WILL MARRY SAPPHIRE, NO MATTER WHAT! LEAVE US BE!
HOW IMMATURE. DON'T YOU WANT A DEEPER, MORE INTENSE LOVE?
LET ME BE PERFECTLY CLEAR— SAPPHIRE IS 100 TIMES MORE LOVELY THAN YOU!
EXCUSE ME.
WHISH
FLUTTER
AH!

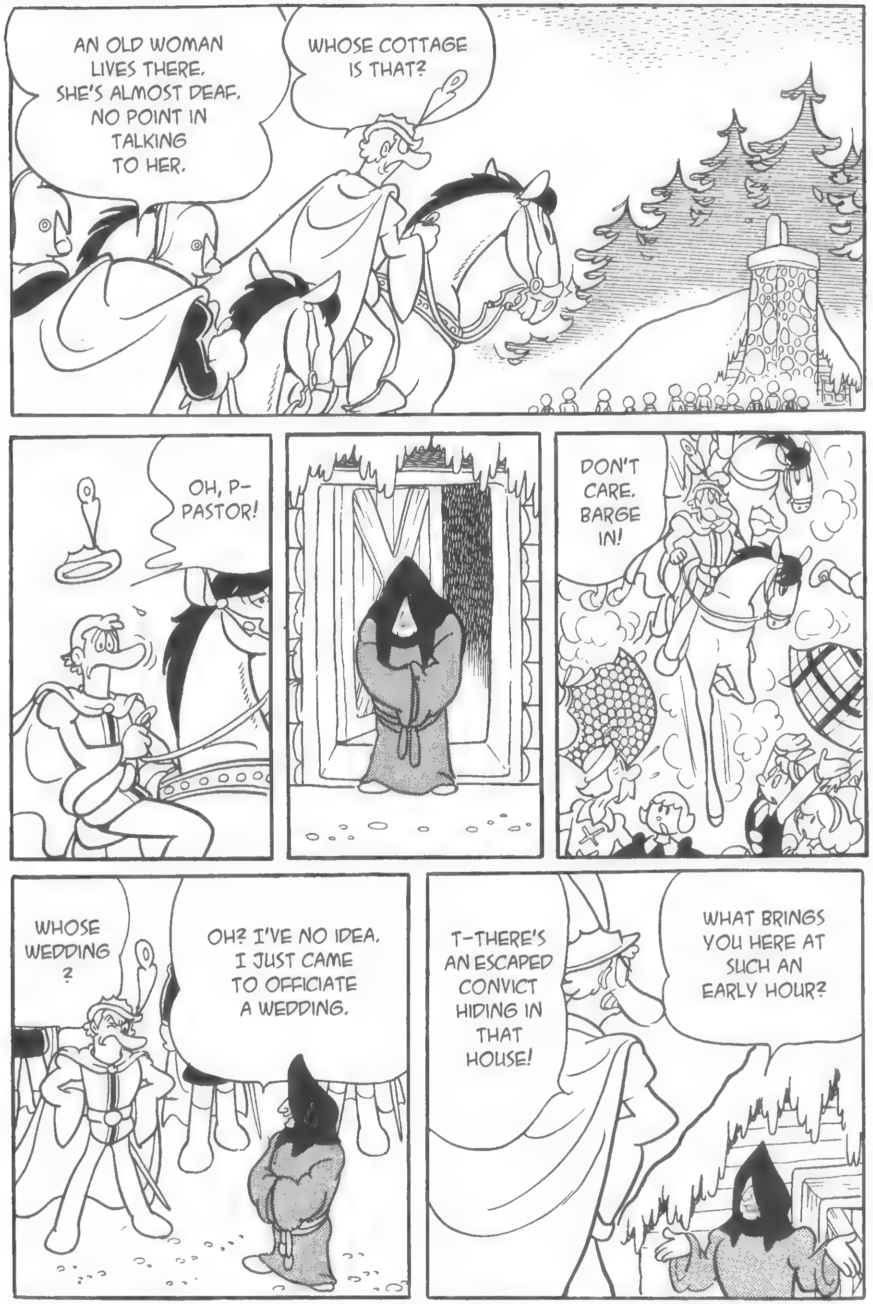

HER CLOAK HAS SURROUNDED ME LIKE A DENSE FOG!
STOP THIS AT ONCE!
HO HO HO
YOU'LL NEVER SEE SAPPHIRE AGAIN. THERE'S NO POINT IN SEARCHING FOR HER!
HO HO HO
WHAT?!

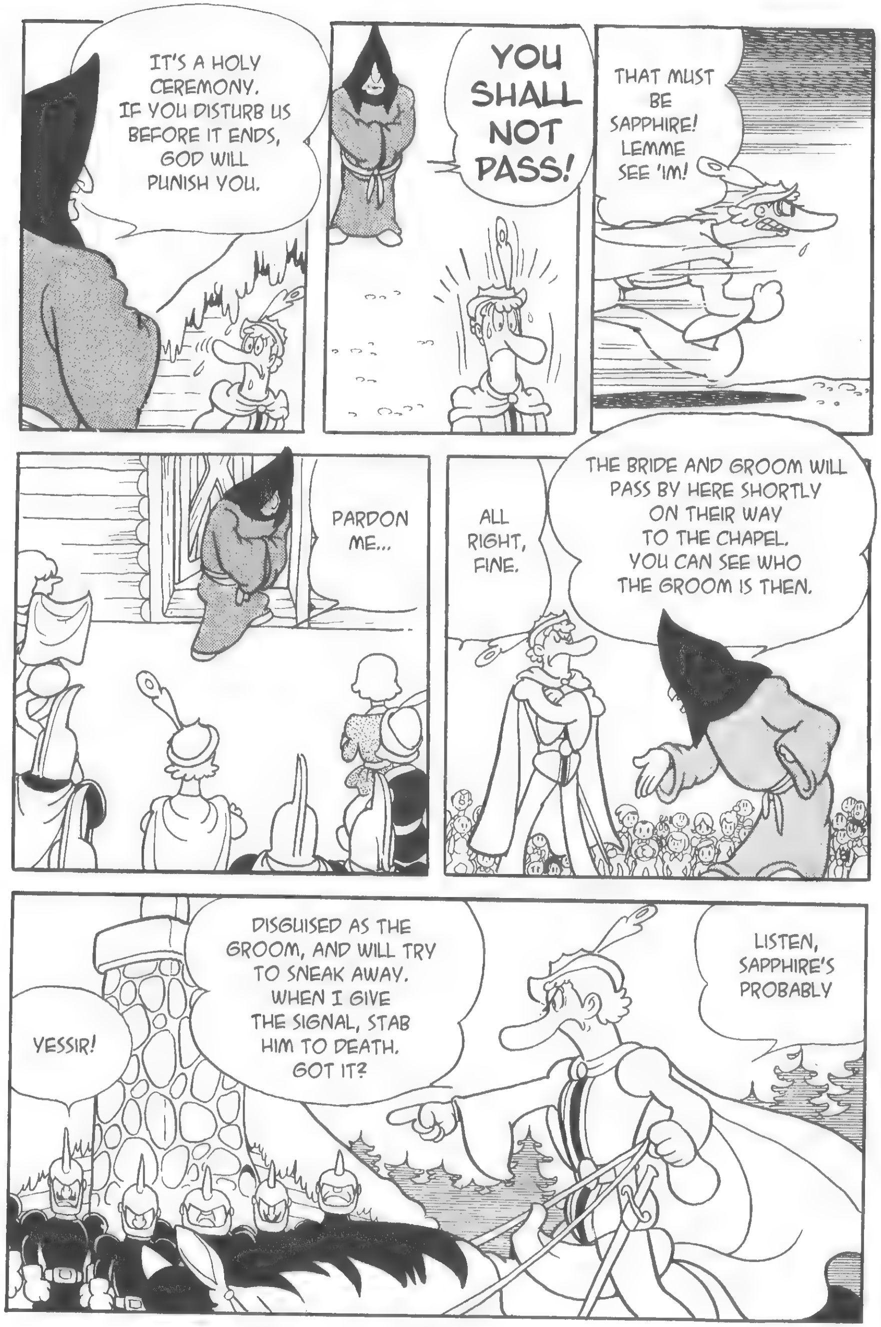

SHRED
WHAT'S THIS? JUST HOW MANY LAYERS ARE THERE?!
VENUS, WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU ?!
I'LL FORGIVE YOU FOR ADDRESSING ME SO RUDELY. I CAN'T BE ANGRY AT YOU.
DO YOU REMEMBER THIS FLOWER?
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A GODDESS OR HOW STRONG YOUR MAGIC IS, YOU'LL NEVER TEAR US APART!
THAT WAS BLOOMING IN THE GARDEN ON OLYMPUS...

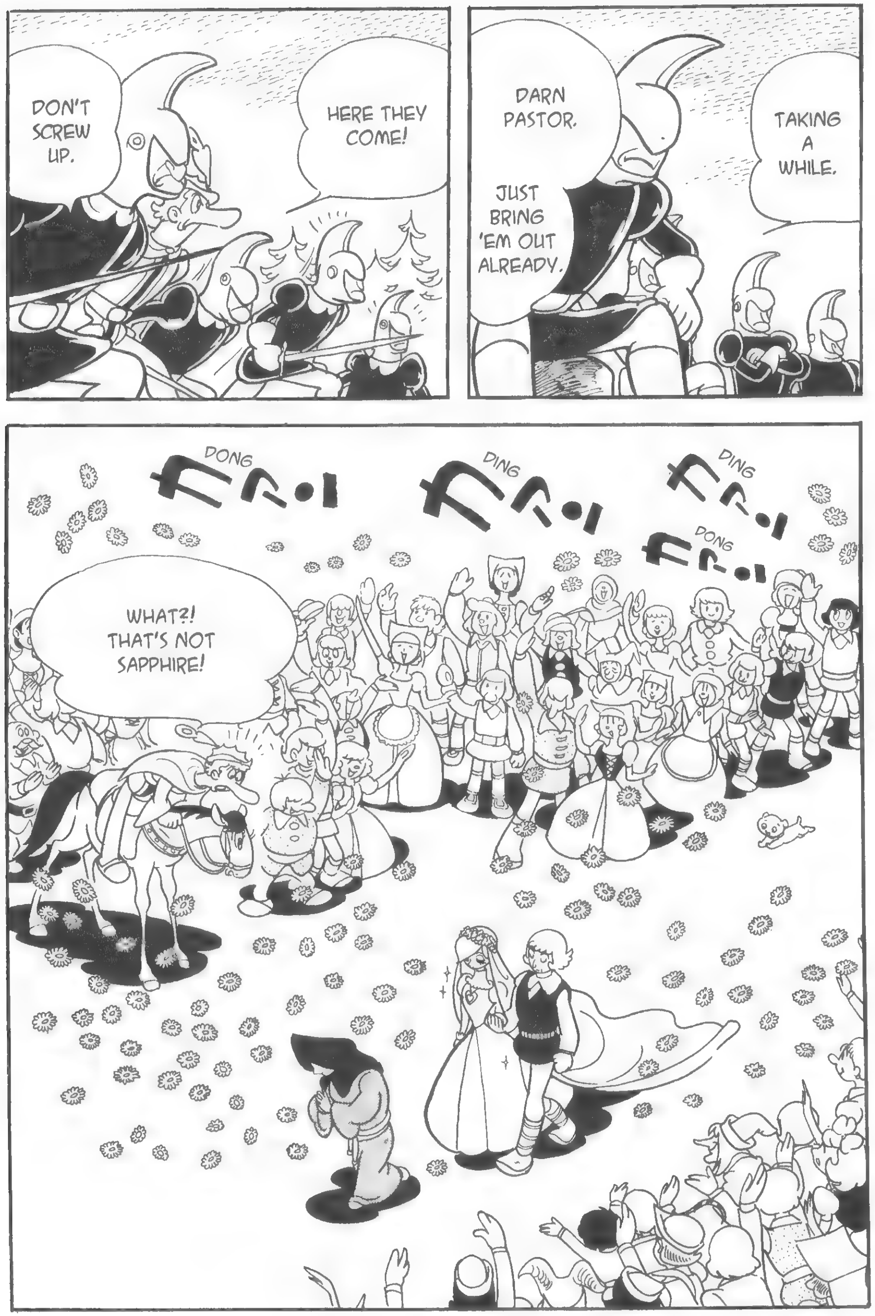

YES. THIS FLOWER HOLDS THE BURNING PASSION THAT LOVERS FEEL FOR ONE ANOTHER.
AND THIS ONE HOLDS THE LOVE OF DEATH. IF YOU PLACE THIS ON YOUR CHEST, YOU'LL DIE.
FRANZ, I WANT YOU TO CHOOSE ONE OF THESE FLOWERS.
YOU DARE THREATEN ME?!
IF YOU DON'T CHOOSE, I'LL KEEP YOU BOUND IN THIS CLOAK FOREVER.
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, CHOOSE.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE?

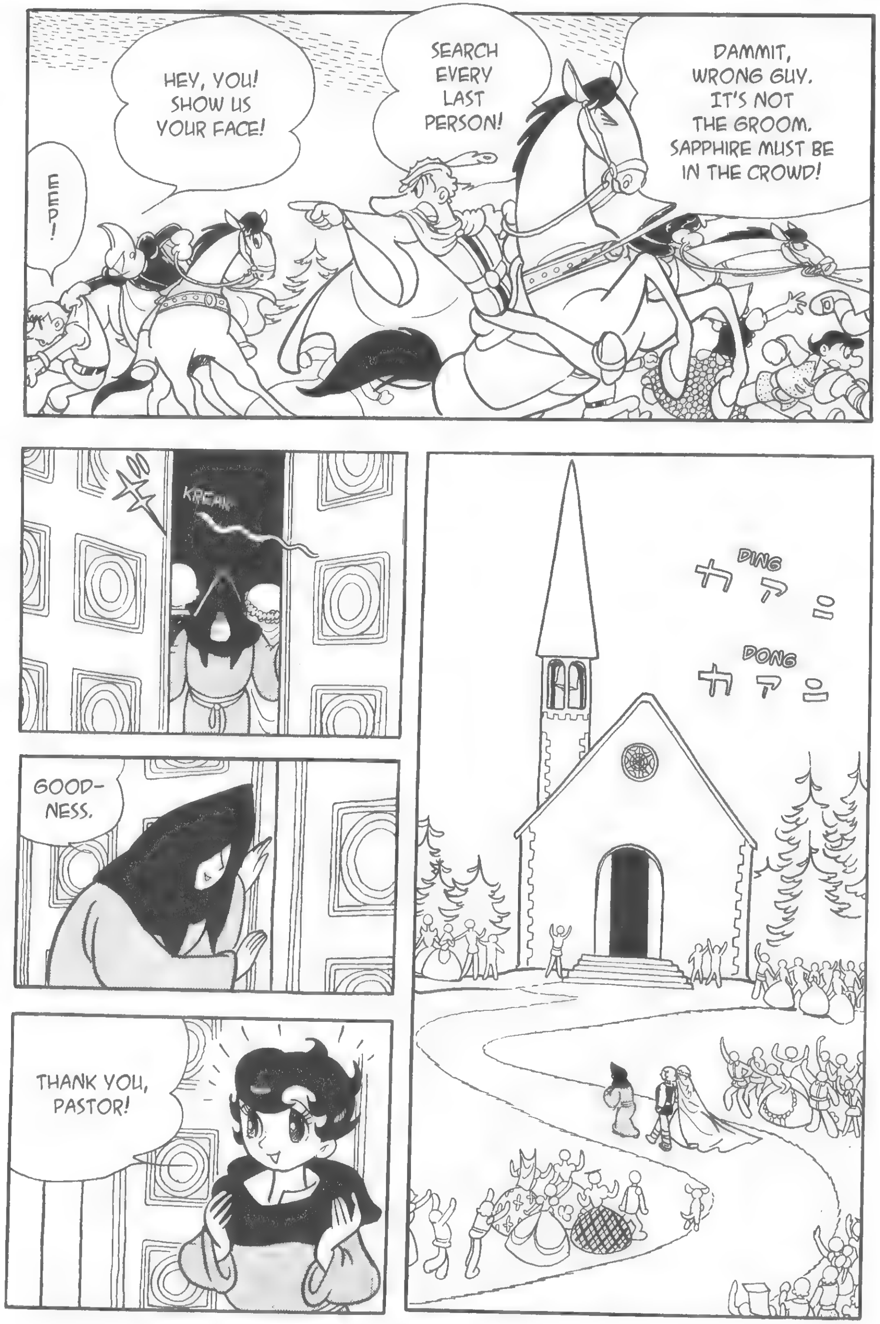

TRY THIS ONE...
I-IF I CHOOSE THAT ONE, WON'T I FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?
YES.
STOP TORMENTING ME!
I DON'T CARE IF I DIE. EVEN IF IT MEANS DEATH, YOU'LL NEVER ERASE MY LOVE FOR SAPPHIRE!
VENUS !!
SAPPHIRE HAS ESCAPED FROM THE DUNGEON!
WHAT?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO SAPPHIRE?

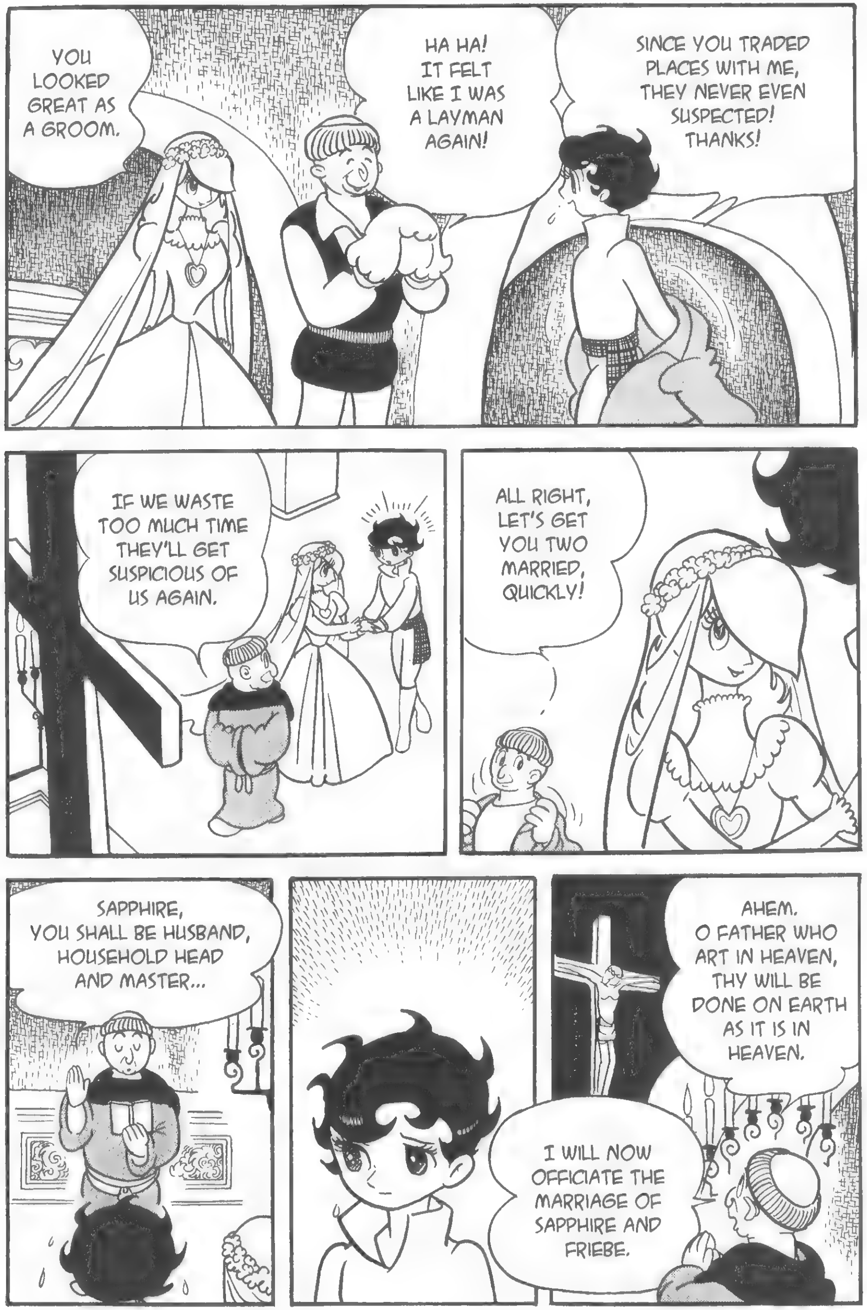

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
YOU, SEARCH THERE. YOU GO INTO THE HEART OF THE FOREST. LOOK EVERYWHERE! CHECK EACH AND EVERY HOUSE!
KILL HIM ON SIGHT.
YESSIR.
I CAN'T CARRY ON LIKE THIS. I'LL LOOK FOR SAPPHIRE, TOO.

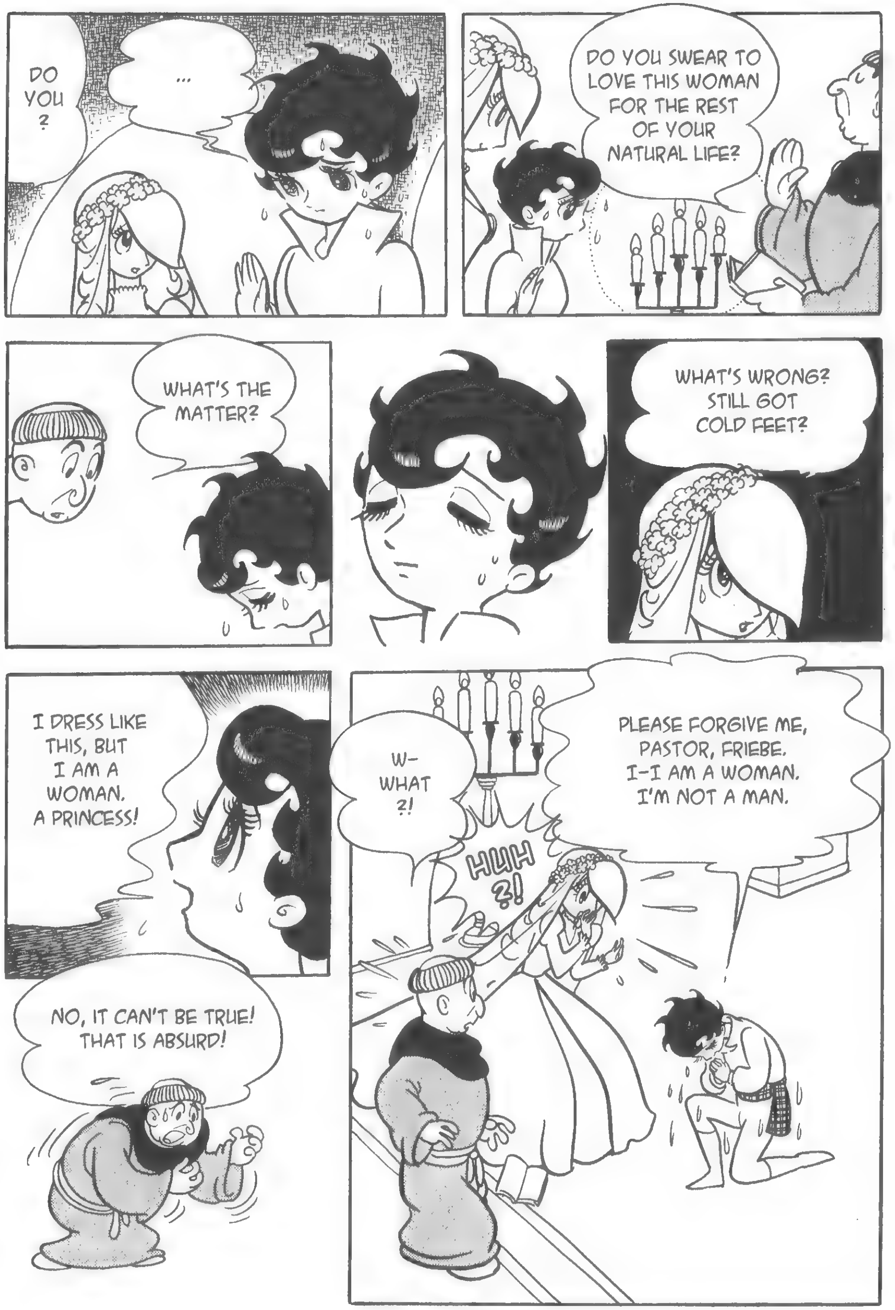

WHOSE COTTAGE IS THAT?
AN OLD WOMAN LIVES THERE. SHE'S ALMOST DEAF. NO POINT IN TALKING TO HER.
DON'T CARE. BARGE IN!
OH, P-PASTOR!
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT SUCH AN EARLY HOUR?
T-THERE'S AN ESCAPED CONVICT HIDING IN THAT HOUSE!
OH? I'VE NO IDEA. I JUST CAME TO OFFICIATE A WEDDING.
WHOSE WEDDING?

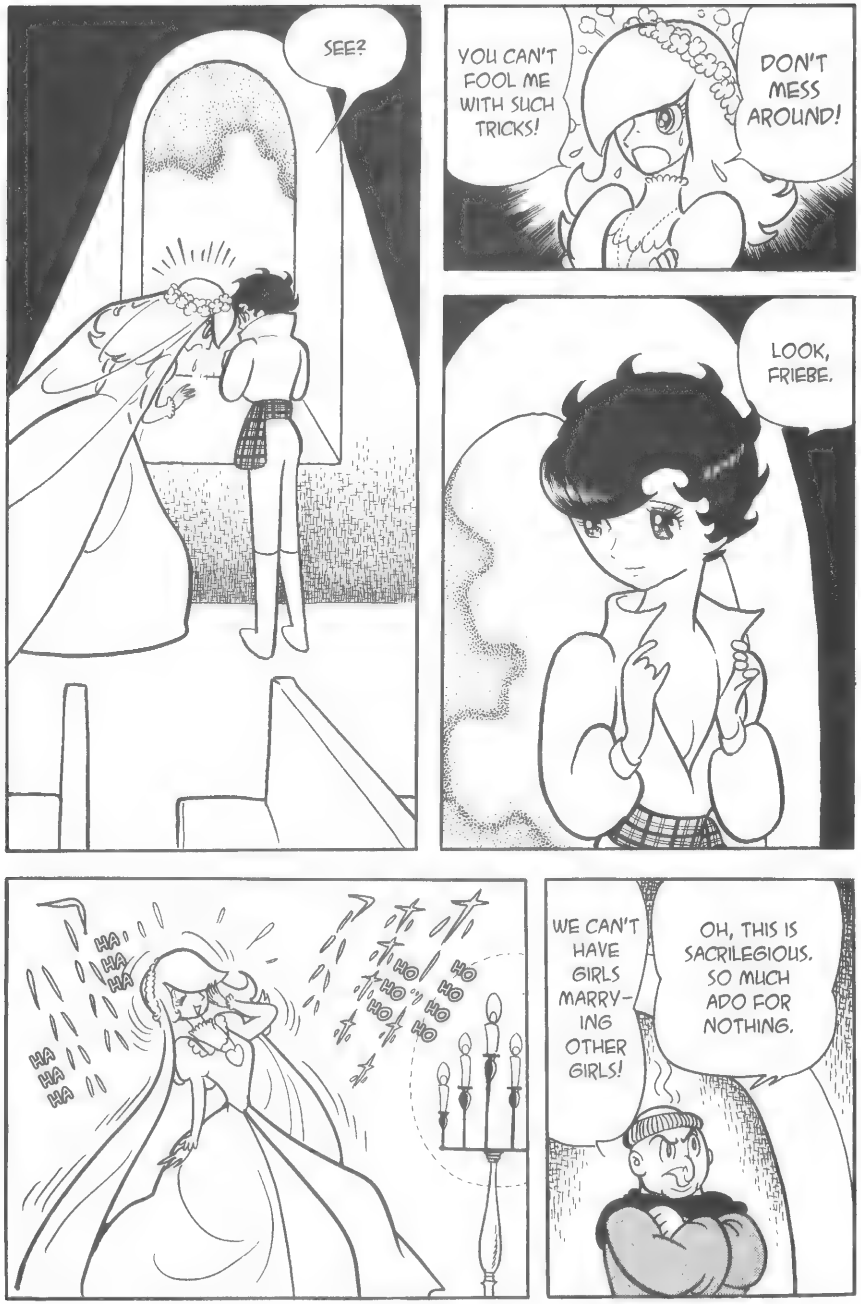

THAT MUST BE SAPPHIRE! LEMME SEE 'IM!
YOU SHALL NOT PASS!
IT'S A HOLY CEREMONY. IF YOU DISTURB US BEFORE IT ENDS, GOD WILL PUNISH YOU.
THE BRIDE AND GROOM WILL PASS BY HERE SHORTLY ON THEIR WAY TO THE CHAPEL. YOU CAN SEE WHO THE GROOM IS THEN.
ALL RIGHT, FINE.
PARDON ME...
LISTEN, SAPPHIRE'S PROBABLY
DISGUISED AS THE GROOM, AND WILL TRY TO SNEAK AWAY. WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, STAB HIM TO DEATH. GOT IT?
YESSIR!

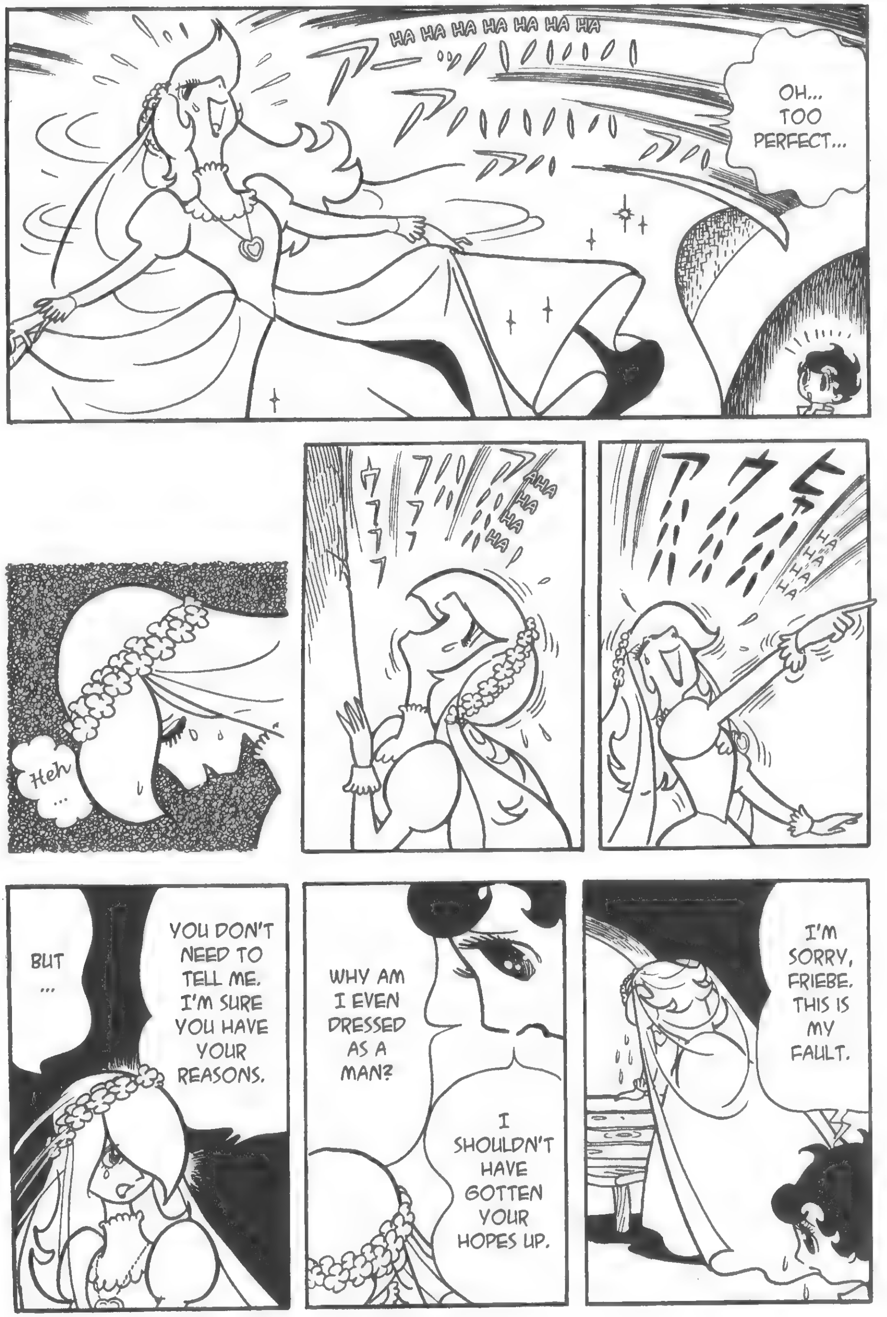

TAKING A WHILE.
DARN PASTOR.
JUST BRING 'EM OUT ALREADY.
HERE THEY COME!
DON'T SCREW UP.
DING
DING
DONG
DONG
WHAT?! THAT'S NOT SAPPHIRE!

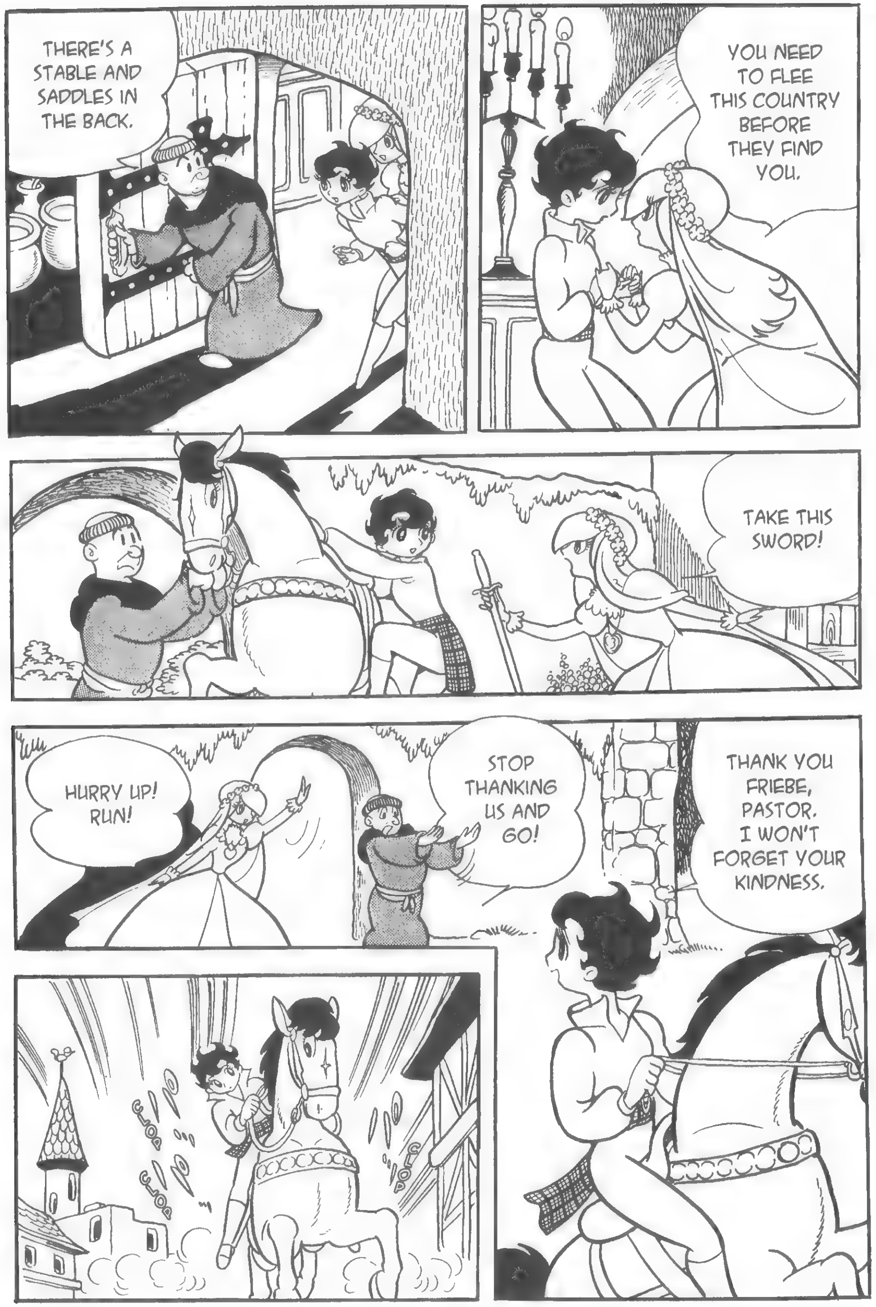

DAMMIT, WRONG GUY. IT'S NOT THE GROOM. SAPPHIRE MUST BE IN THE CROWD!
SEARCH EVERY LAST PERSON!
HEY, YOU! SHOW US YOUR FACE!
EEP!
カァン DING
カァン DONG
KREAK
GOODNESS.
THANK YOU, PASTOR!

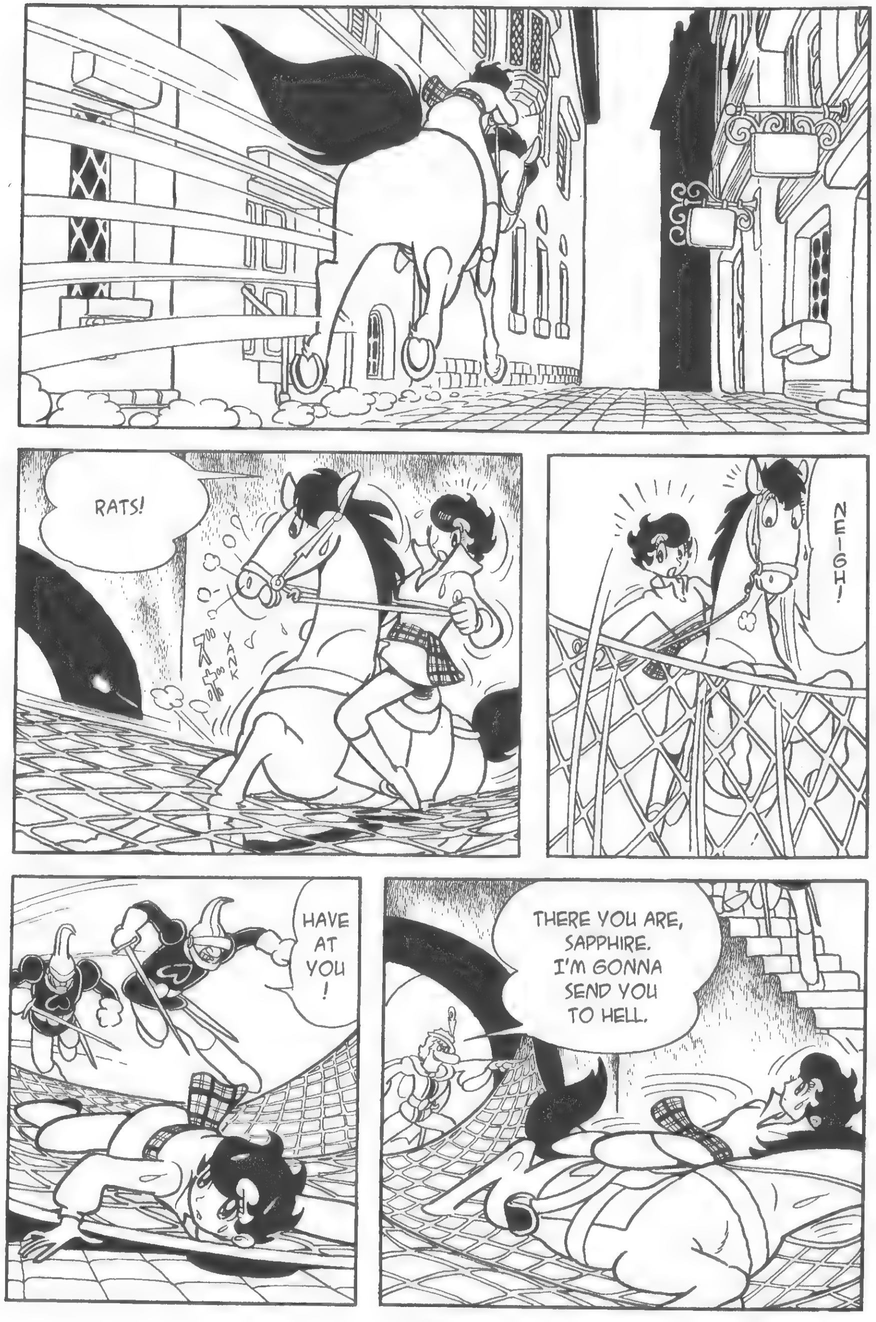

SINCE YOU TRADED PLACES WITH ME, THEY NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED! THANKS!
HA HA! IT FELT LIKE I WAS A LAYMAN AGAIN!
YOU LOOKED GREAT AS A GROOM.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET YOU TWO MARRIED, QUICKLY!
IF WE WASTE TOO MUCH TIME THEY'LL GET SUSPICIOUS OF US AGAIN.
AHEM. O FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
I WILL NOW OFFICIATE THE MARRIAGE OF SAPPHIRE AND FRIEBE.
SAPPHIRE, YOU SHALL BE HUSBAND, HOUSEHOLD HEAD AND MASTER...

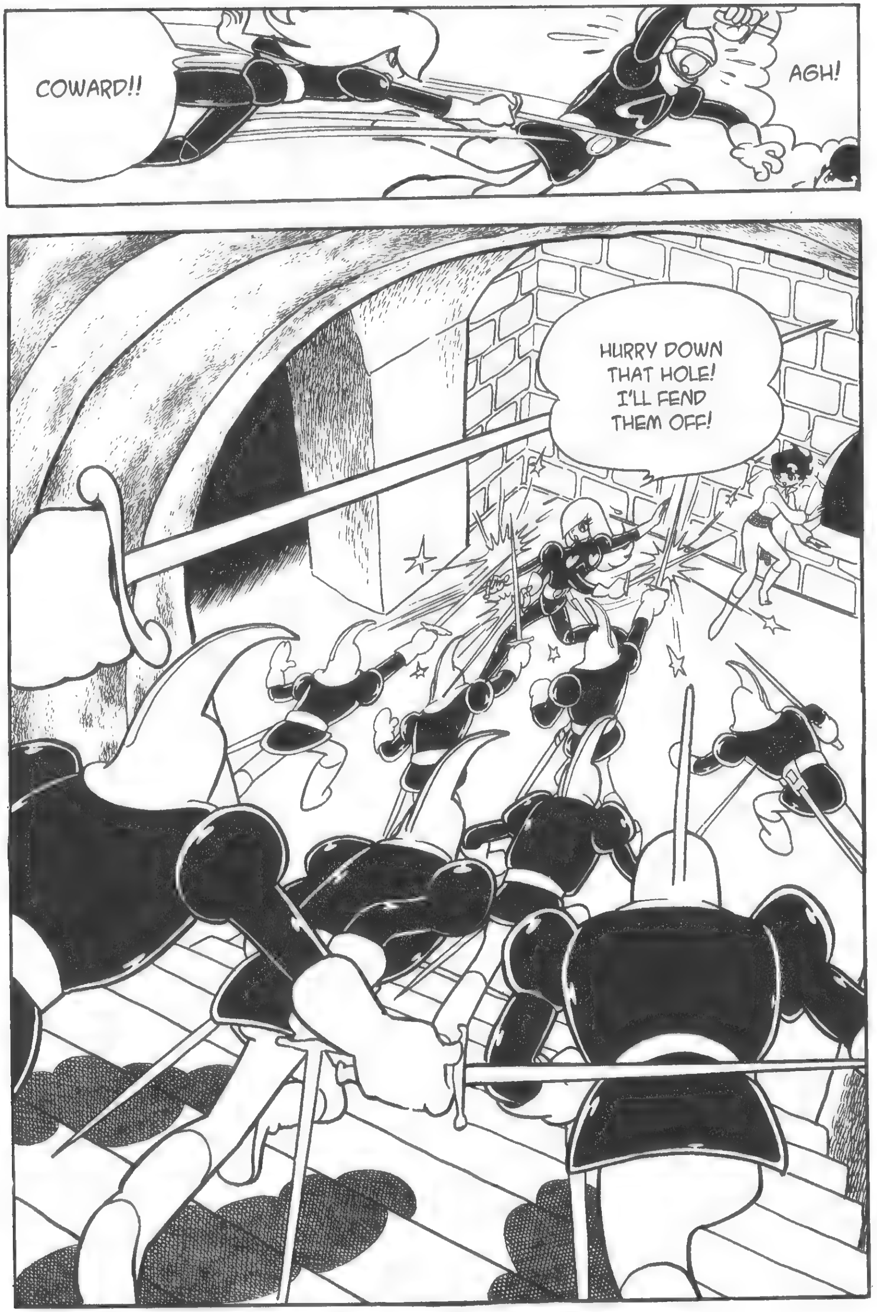

DO YOU SWEAR TO LOVE THIS WOMAN FOR THE REST OF YOUR NATURAL LIFE?
...
DO YOU ?
WHAT'S WRONG? STILL GOT COLD FEET?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, PASTOR, FRIEBE. I-I AM A WOMAN. I'M NOT A MAN.
HUH ?!
W-WHAT ?!
I DRESS LIKE THIS, BUT I AM A WOMAN. A PRINCESS!
NO, IT CAN'T BE TRUE! THAT IS ABSURD!

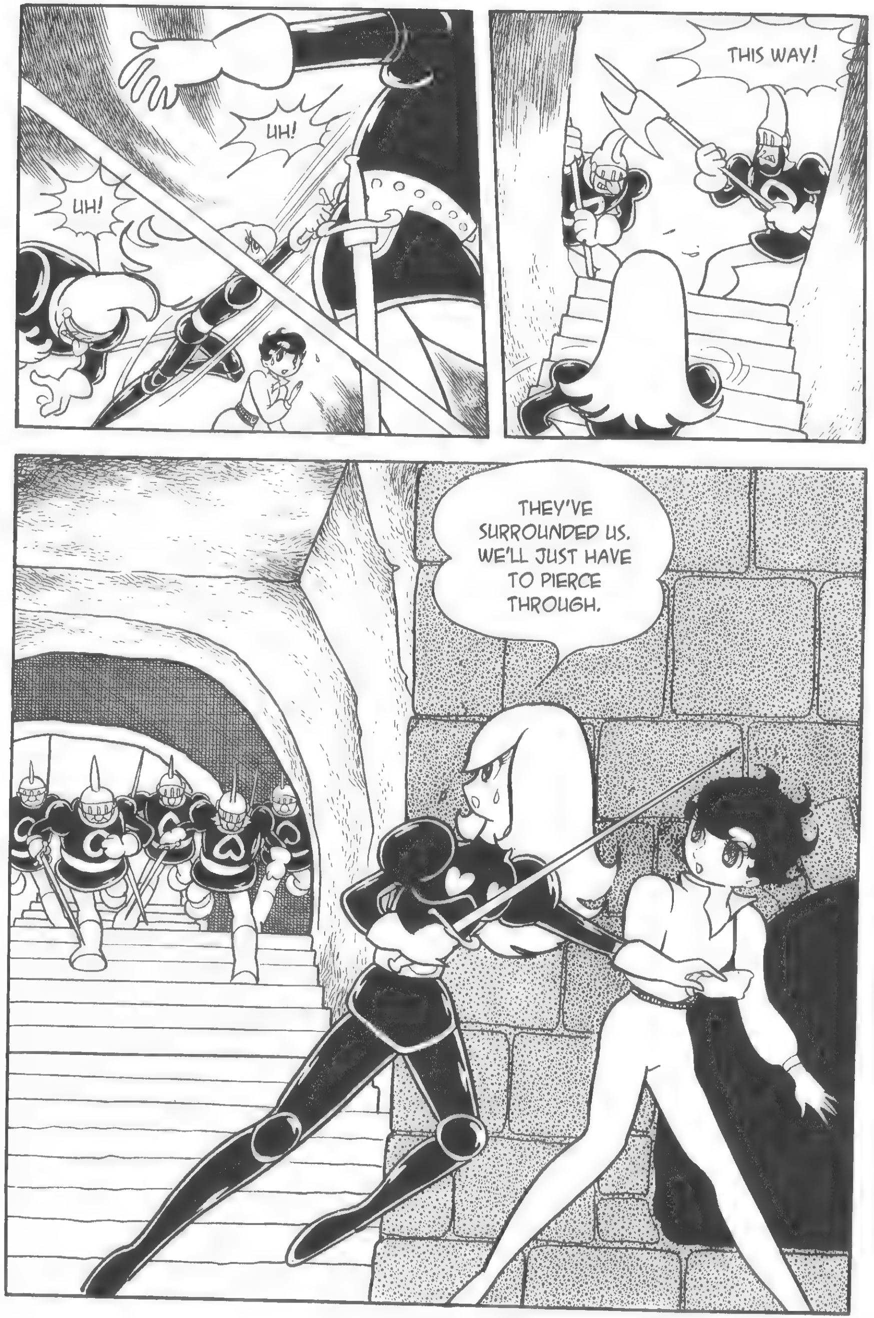

DON'T MESS AROUND!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME WITH SUCH TRICKS!
LOOK, FRIEBE.
SEE?
OH, THIS IS SACRILEGIOUS. SO MUCH ADO FOR NOTHING.
WE CAN'T HAVE GIRLS MARRYING OTHER GIRLS!
HO HO HO HO
HO HO HO HO
HA HA HA
HA HA HA

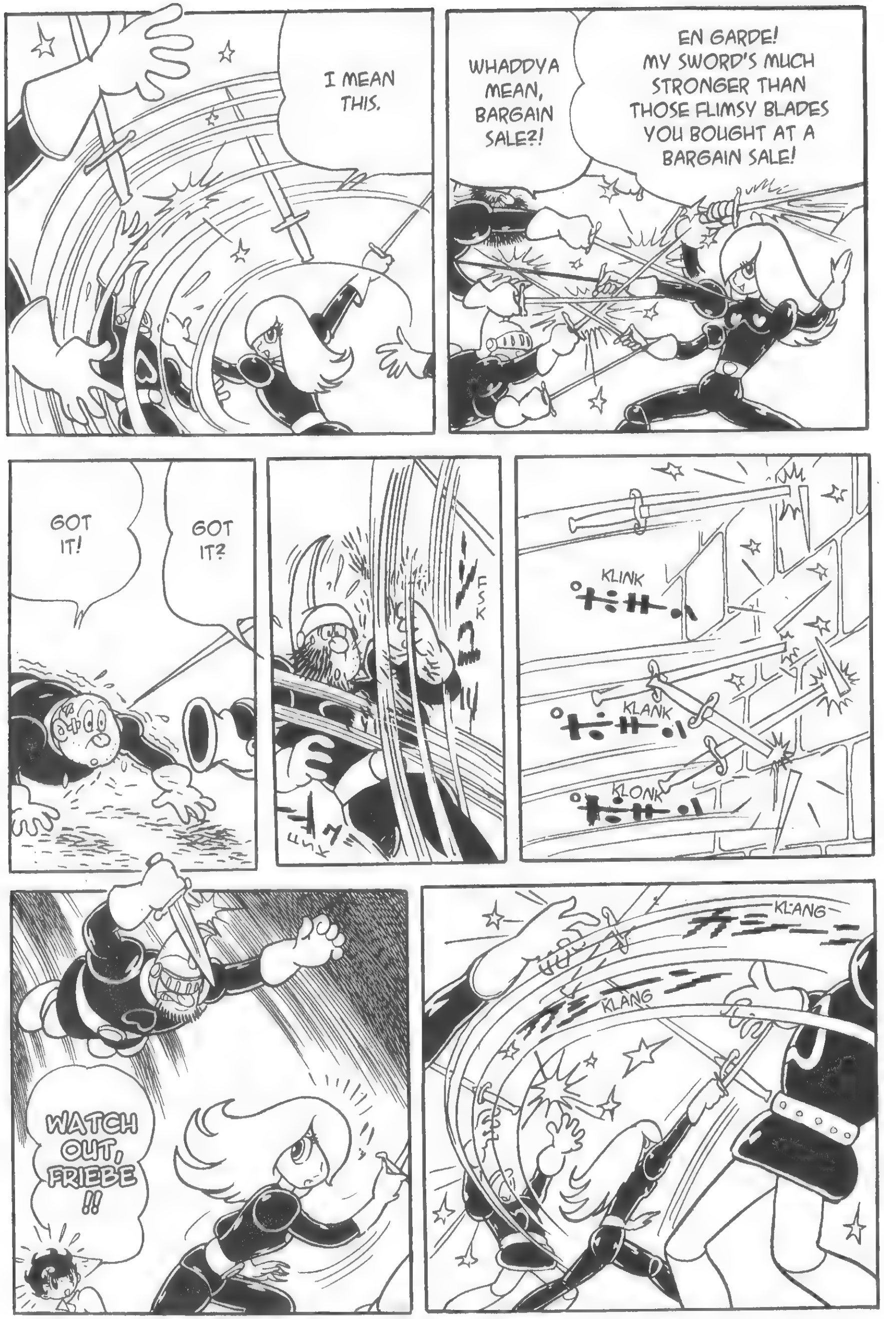

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
OH... TOO PERFECT...
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
Heh ...
I'M SORRY, FRIEBE. THIS IS MY FAULT.
WHY AM I EVEN DRESSED AS A MAN?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN YOUR HOPES UP.
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME. I'M SURE YOU HAVE YOUR REASONS.
BUT ...

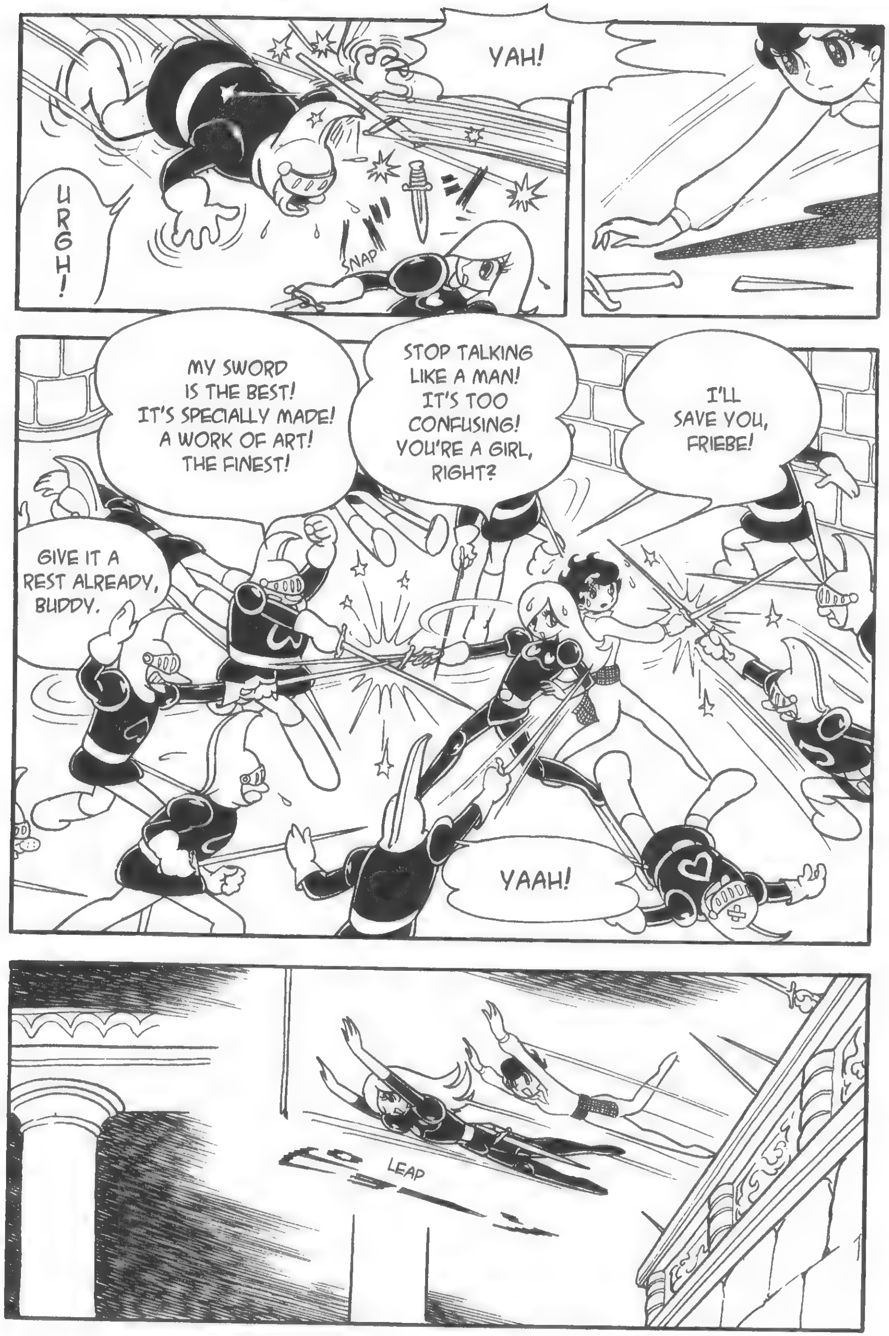

YOU NEED TO FLEE THIS COUNTRY BEFORE THEY FIND YOU.
THERE'S A STABLE AND SADDLES IN THE BACK.
TAKE THIS SWORD!
THANK YOU FRIEBE, PASTOR. I WON'T FORGET YOUR KINDNESS.
STOP THANKING US AND GO!
HURRY UP! RUN!
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

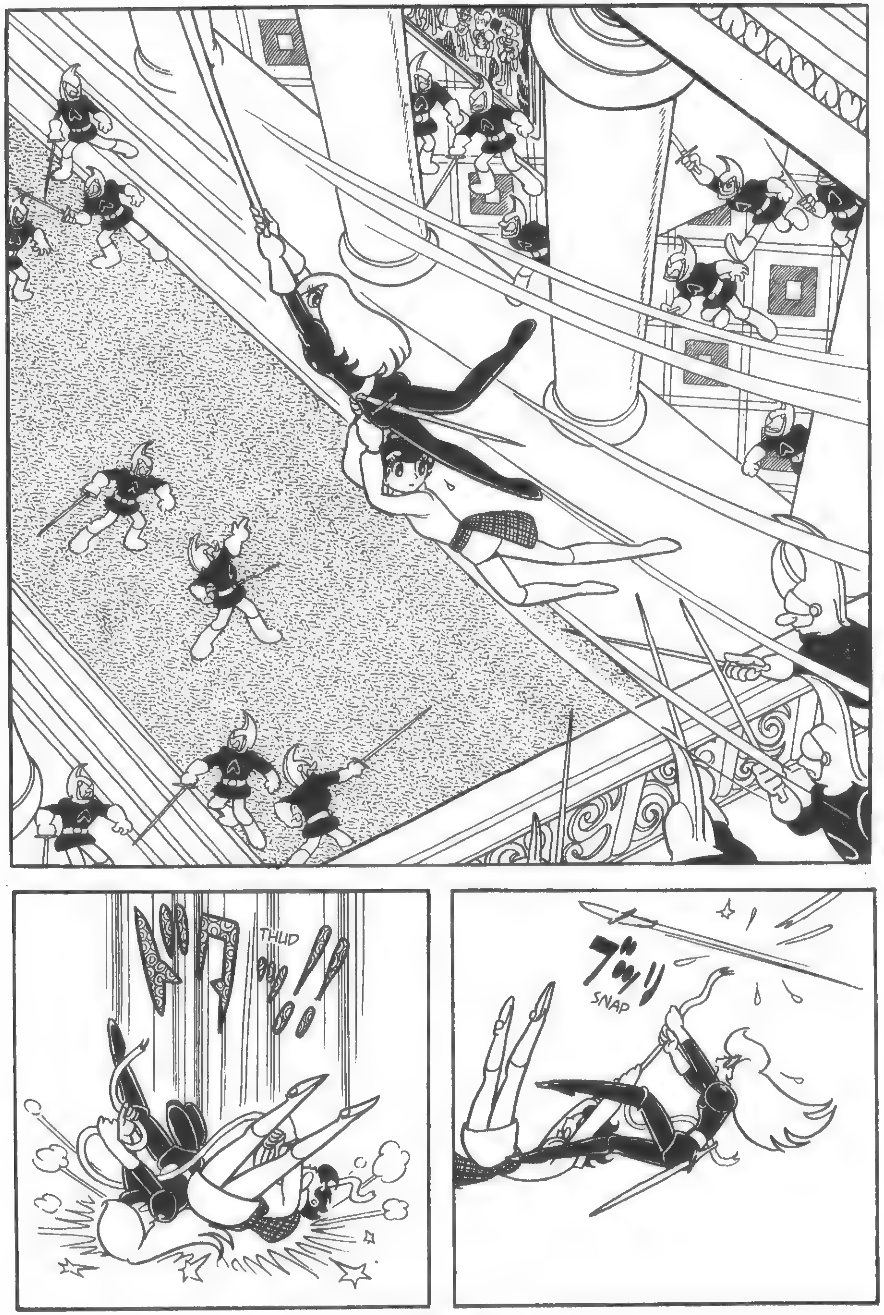

NEIGH!
RATS!
YANK
THERE YOU ARE, SAPPHIRE. I'M GONNA SEND YOU TO HELL.
HAVE AT YOU!

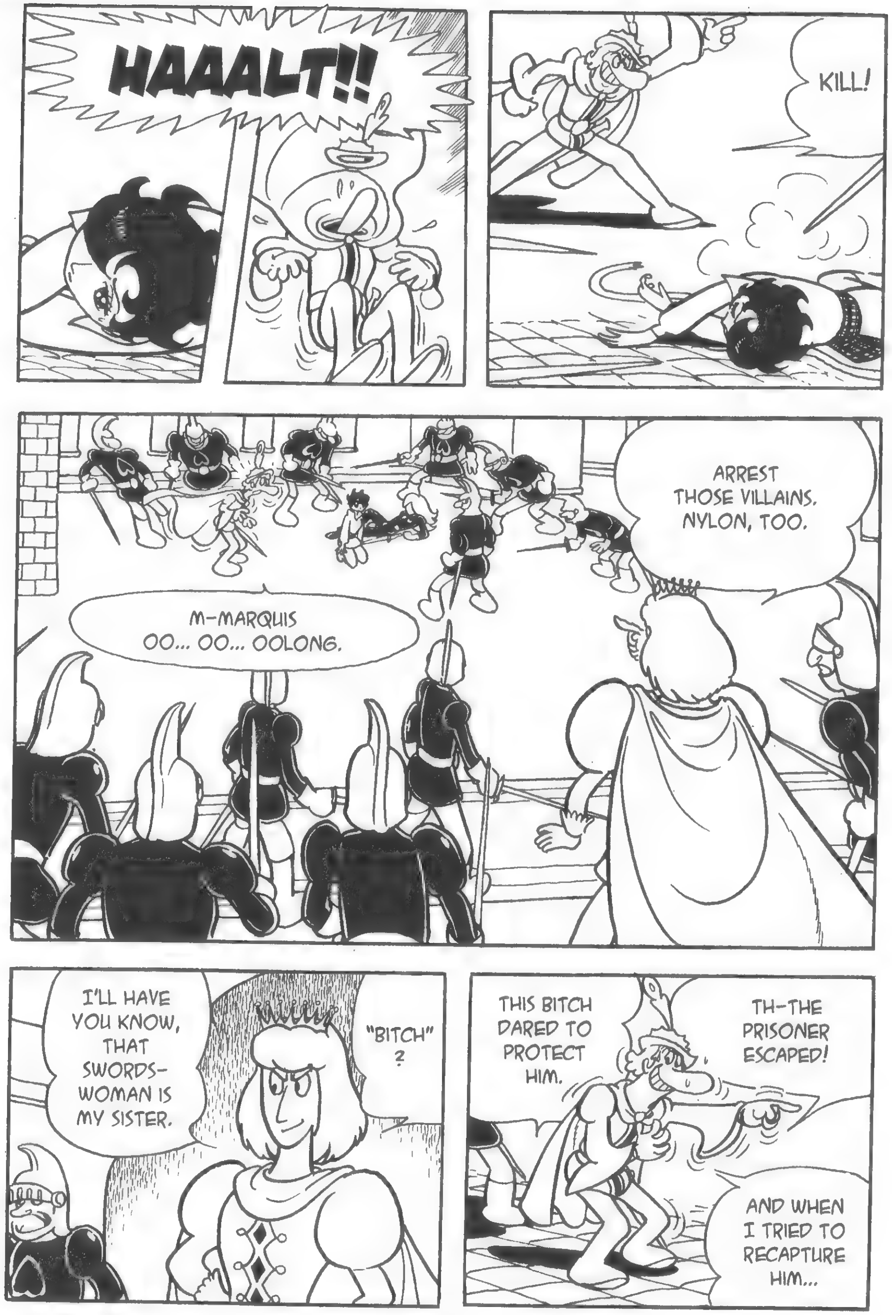

AGH!
COWARD!!
HURRY DOWN THAT HOLE! I'LL FEND THEM OFF!

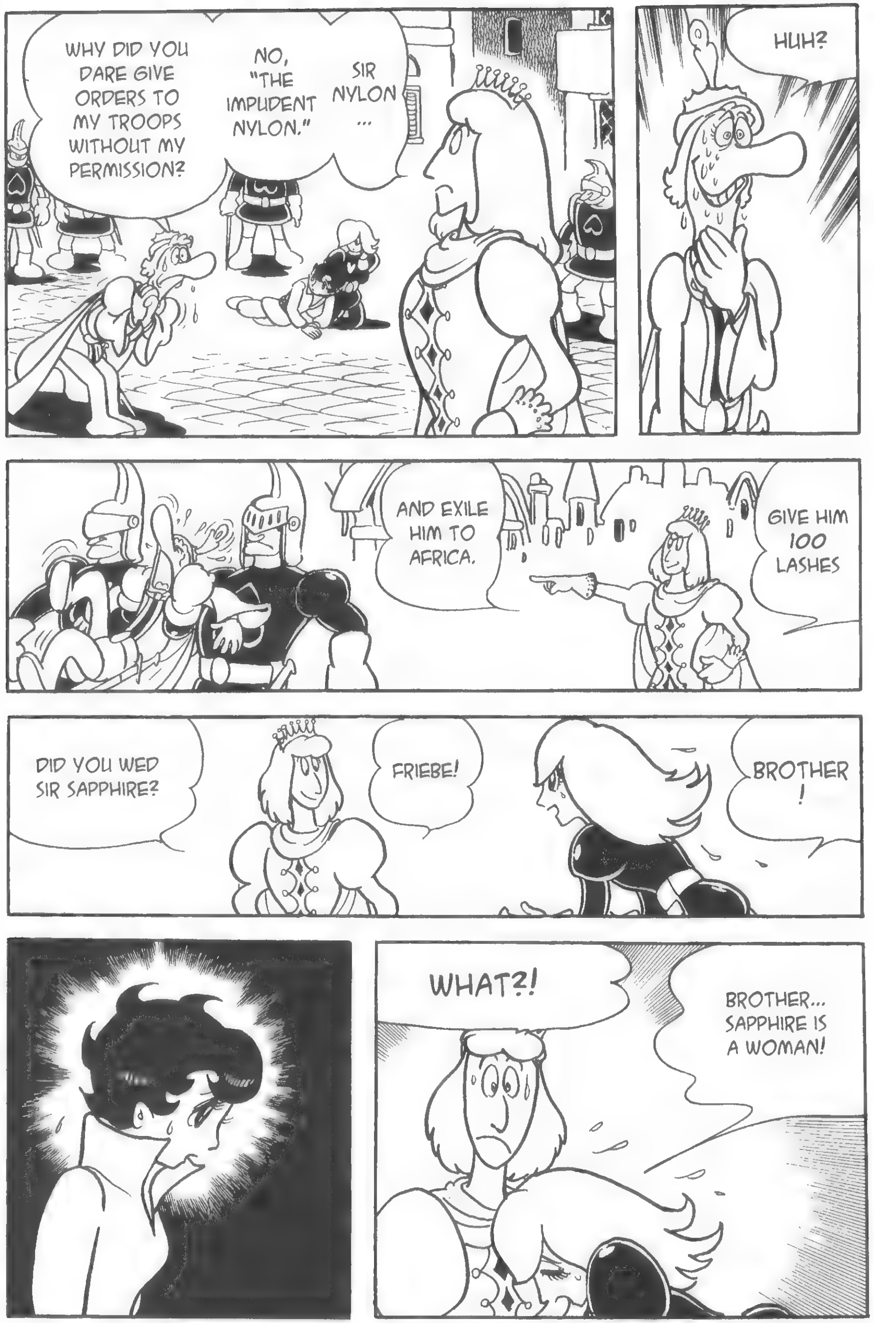

THIS WAY!
UH!
UH!
THEY'VE SURROUNDED US. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PIERCE THROUGH.


EN GARDE! MY SWORD'S MUCH STRONGER THAN THOSE FLIMSY BLADES YOU BOUGHT AT A BARGAIN SALE!
WHADDYA MEAN, BARGAIN SALE?!
I MEAN THIS.
KLINK
KLANK
KLONK
FSK
FWK
GOT IT?
GOT IT!
KL-ANG
KLANG
WATCH OUT, FRIEBE!!


YAH!
URGH!
SNAP
I'LL SAVE YOU, FRIEBE!
STOP TALKING LIKE A MAN! IT'S TOO CONFUSING! YOU'RE A GIRL, RIGHT?
MY SWORD IS THE BEST! IT'S SPECIALLY MADE! A WORK OF ART! THE FINEST!
GIVE IT A REST ALREADY, BUDDY.
YAAH!
LEAP

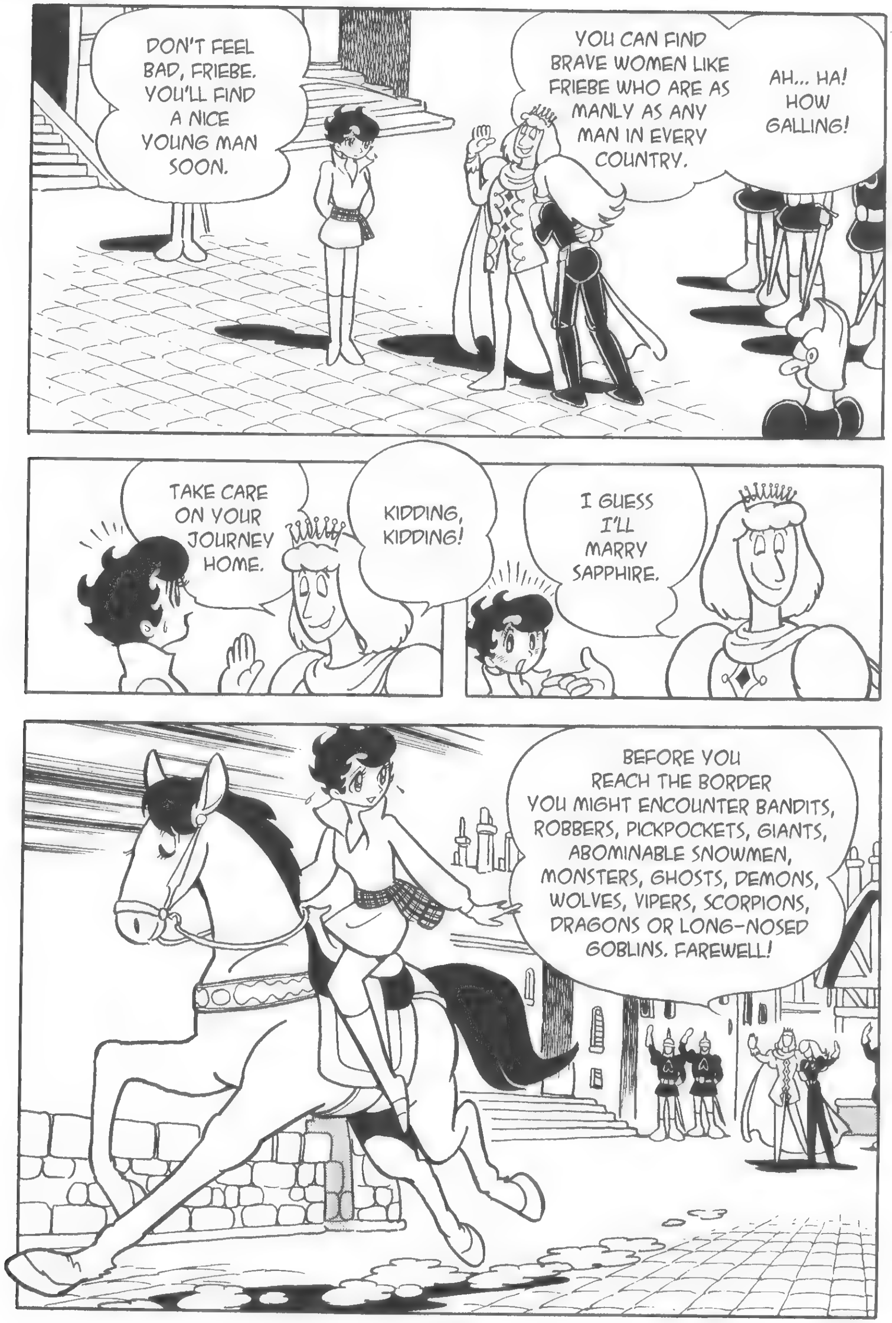

ブッ!!
SNAP
THUD

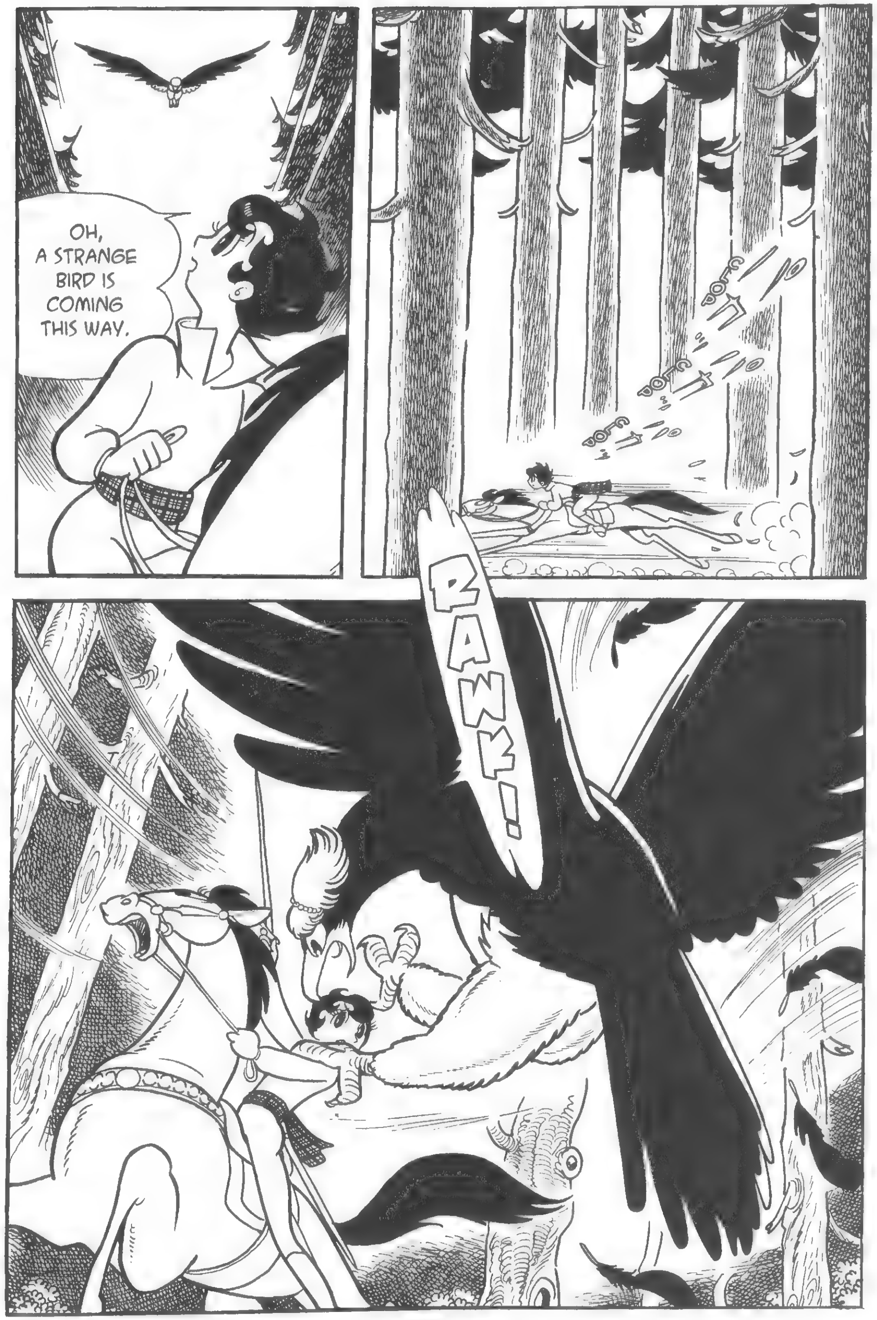

KILL!
HAAALT!!
ARREST THOSE VILLAINS. NYLON, TOO.
M-MARQUIS OO... OO... OOLONG.
TH-THE PRISONER ESCAPED!
AND WHEN I TRIED TO RECAPTURE HIM...
THIS BITCH DARED TO PROTECT HIM.
"BITCH" ?
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, THAT SWORDSWOMAN IS MY SISTER.

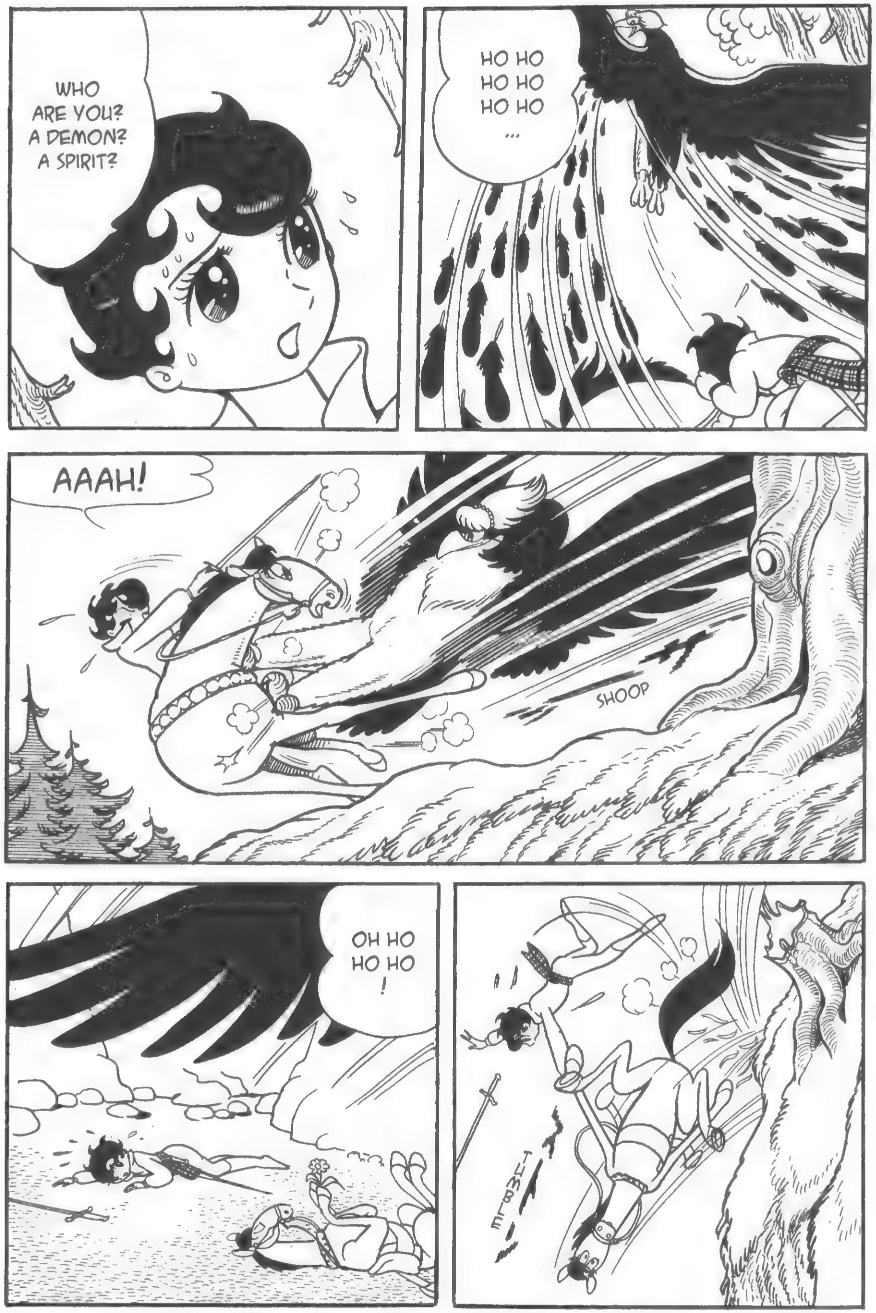

HUH?
SIR NYLON ...
NO, "THE IMPUDENT NYLON."
WHY DID YOU DARE GIVE ORDERS TO MY TROOPS WITHOUT MY PERMISSION?
GIVE HIM 100 LASHES
AND EXILE HIM TO AFRICA.
BROTHER !
FRIEBE!
DID YOU WED SIR SAPPHIRE?
BROTHER... SAPPHIRE IS A WOMAN!
WHAT?!

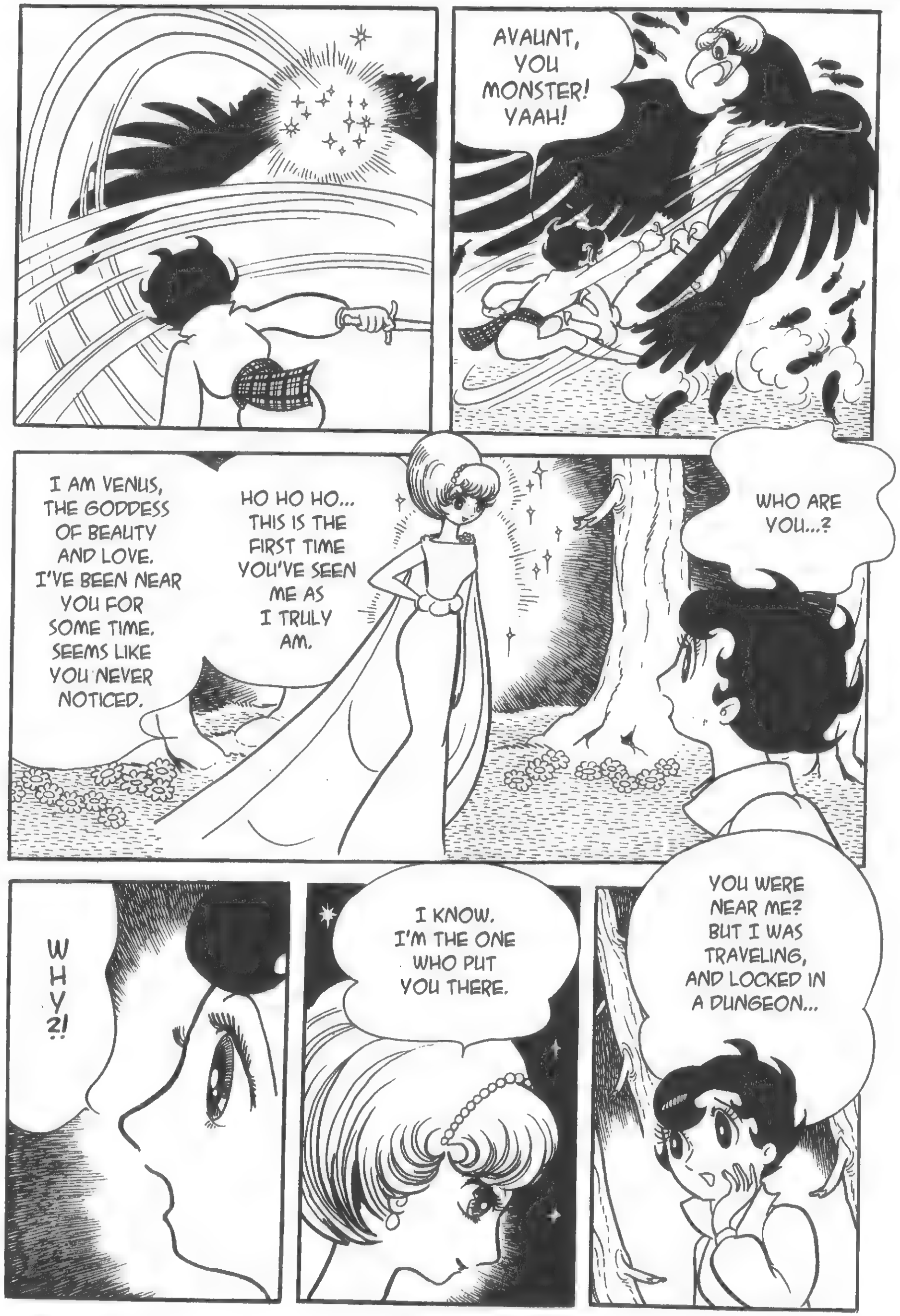
Chapter 27

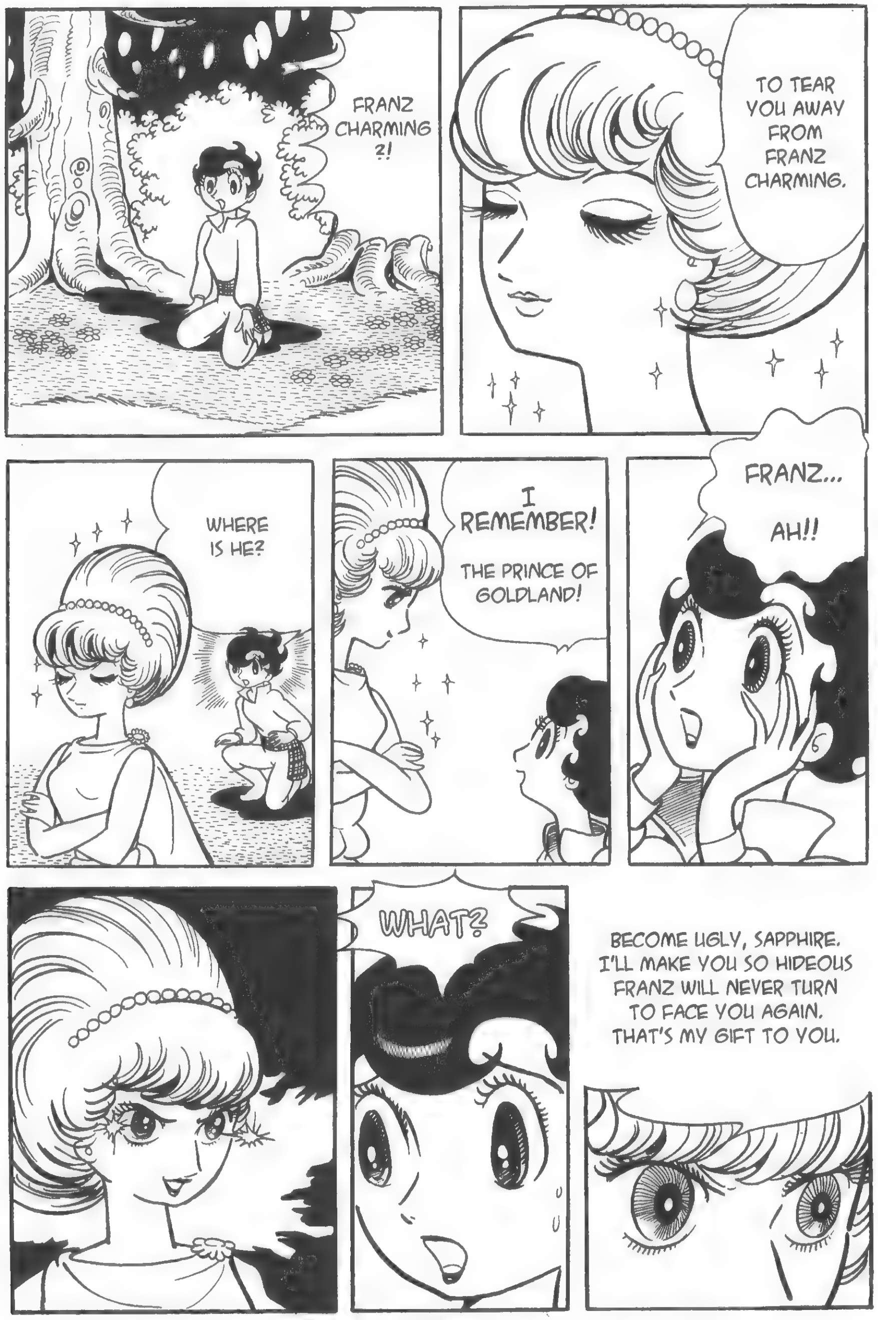
Miracle on the Hill

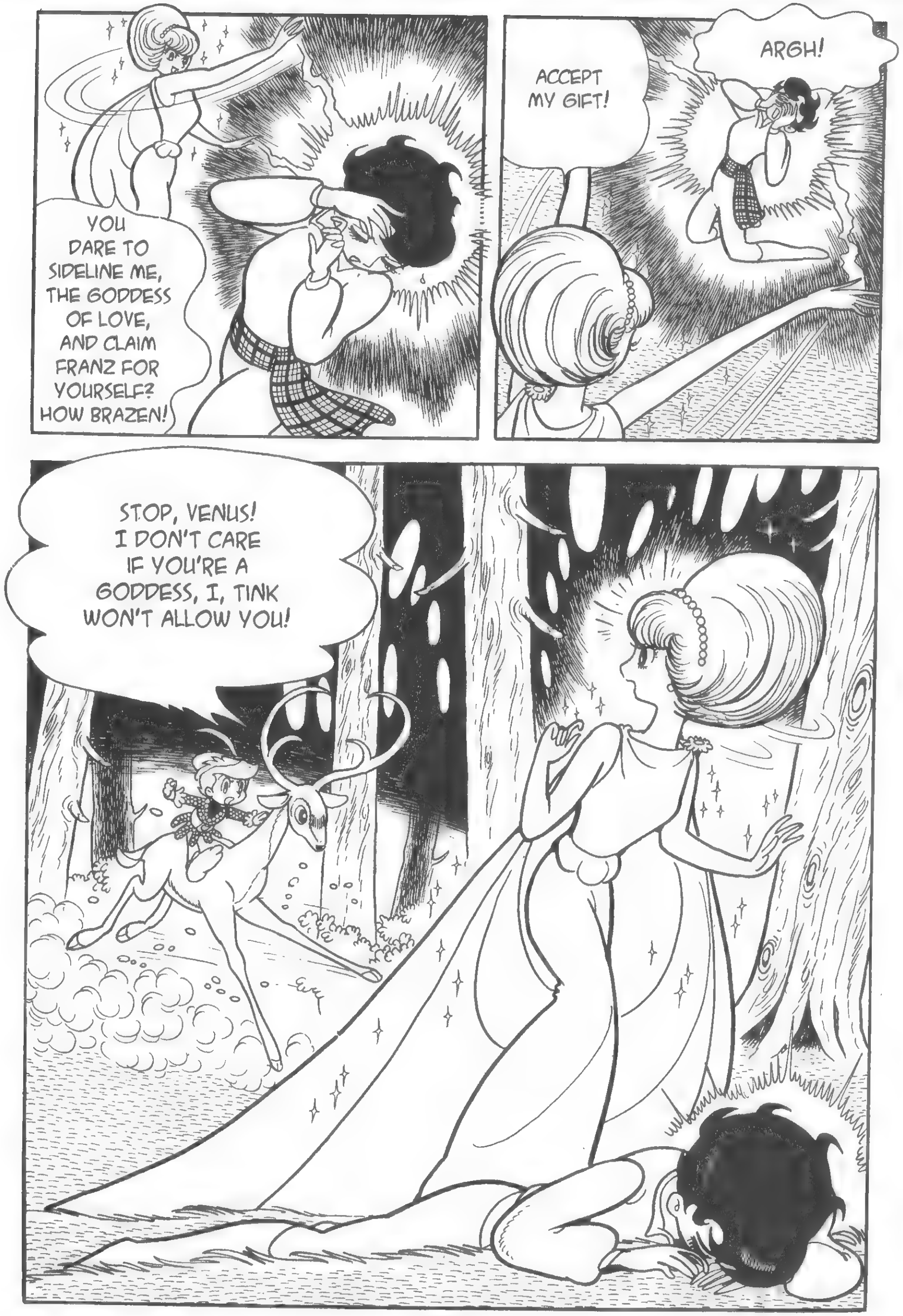

DON'T FEEL BAD, FRIEBE. YOU'LL FIND A NICE YOUNG MAN SOON.
YOU CAN FIND BRAVE WOMEN LIKE FRIEBE WHO ARE AS MANLY AS ANY MAN IN EVERY COUNTRY.
AH... HA! HOW GALLING!
TAKE CARE ON YOUR JOURNEY HOME.
KIDDING, KIDDING!
I GUESS I'LL MARRY SAPPHIRE.
BEFORE YOU REACH THE BORDER YOU MIGHT ENCOUNTER BANDITS, ROBBERS, PICKPOCKETS, GIANTS, ABOMINABLE SNOWMEN, MONSTERS, GHOSTS, DEMONS, WOLVES, VIPERS, SCORPIONS, DRAGONS OR LONG-NOSED GOBLINS. FAREWELL!

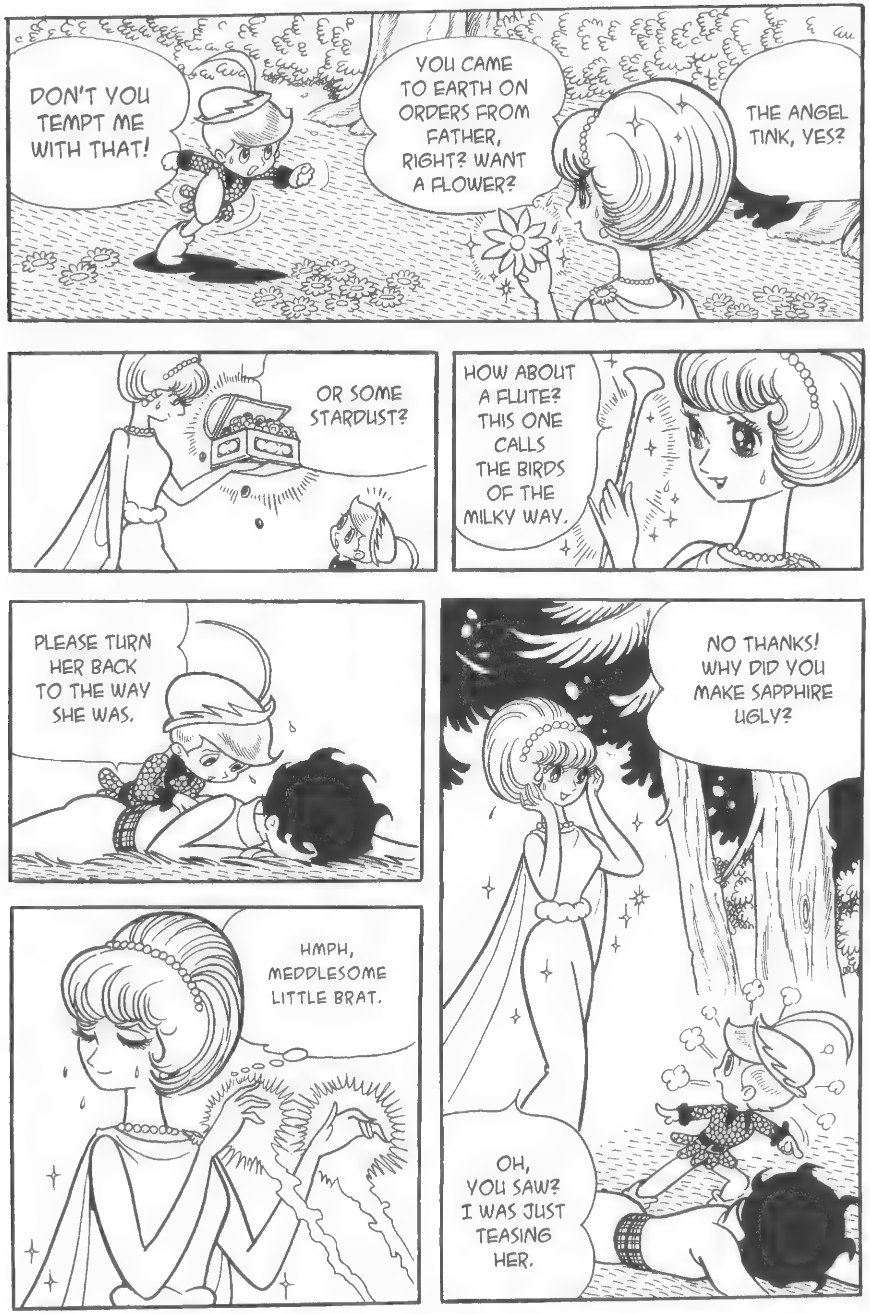

OH, A STRANGE BIRD IS COMING THIS WAY.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
RAWK!

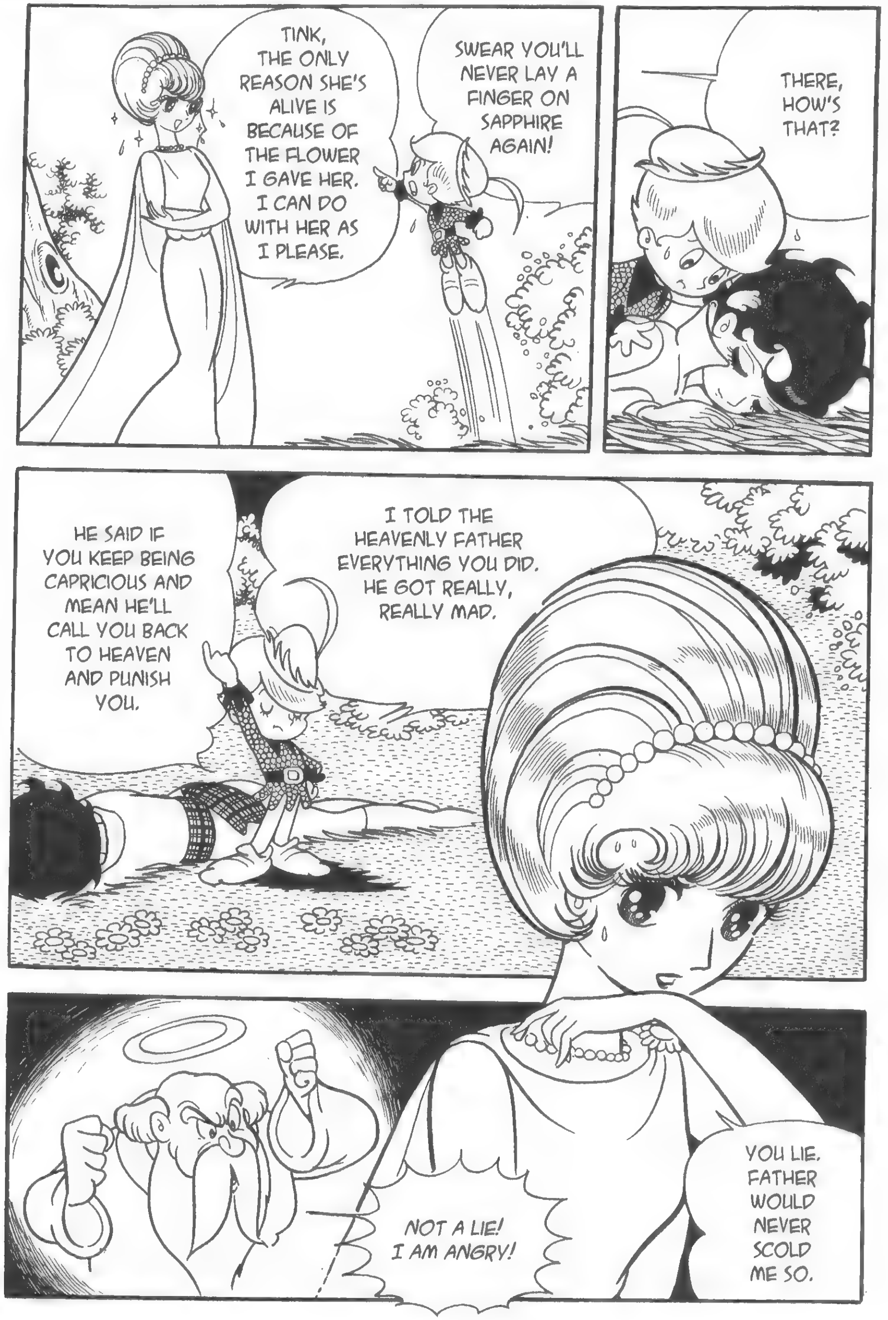

HO HO HO HO HO HO ...
WHO ARE YOU? A DEMON? A SPIRIT?
AAAH!
SHOOP
TUMBLE
OH HO HO HO !

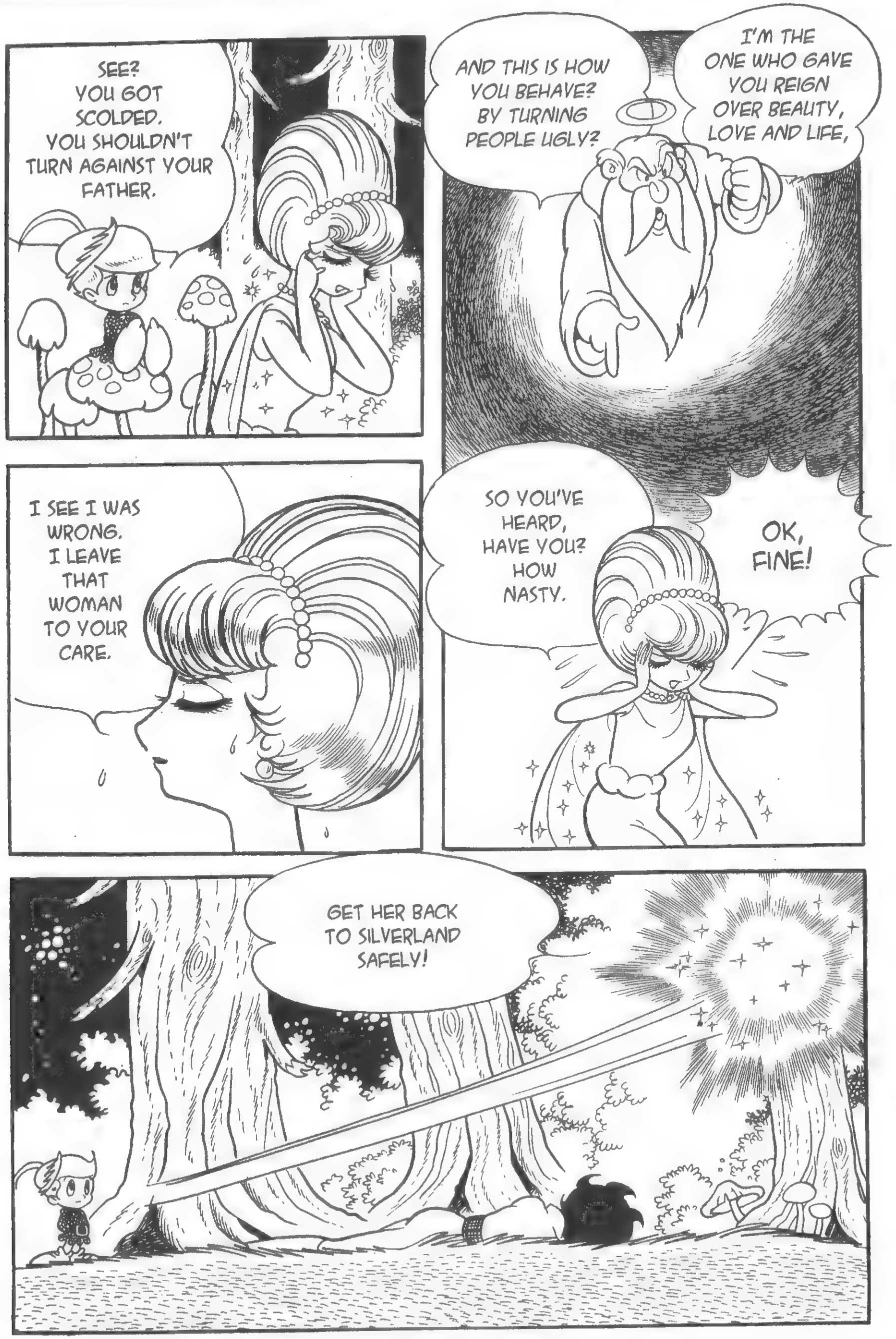

AVAUNT, YOU MONSTER! YAAH!
WHO ARE YOU...?
HO HO HO... THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN ME AS I TRULY AM.
I AM VENUS, THE GODDESS OF BEAUTY AND LOVE. I'VE BEEN NEAR YOU FOR SOME TIME. SEEMS LIKE YOU NEVER NOTICED.
YOU WERE NEAR ME? BUT I WAS TRAVELING, AND LOCKED IN A DUNGEON...
I KNOW. I'M THE ONE WHO PUT YOU THERE.
WHY?!

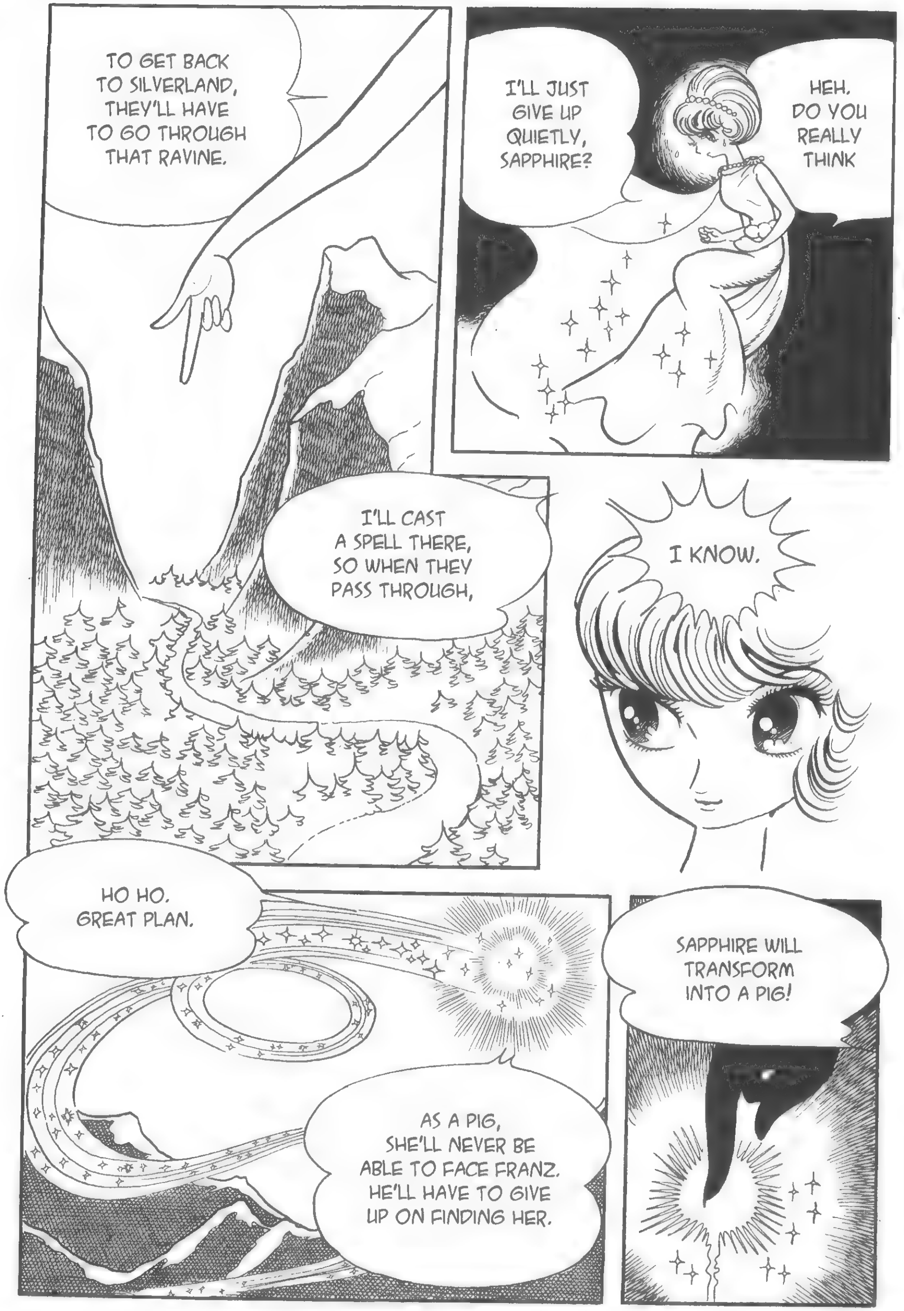

TO TEAR YOU AWAY FROM FRANZ CHARMING.
FRANZ CHARMING?!
FRANZ... AH!!
I REMEMBER! THE PRINCE OF GOLDLAND!
WHERE IS HE?
BECOME UGLY, SAPPHIRE. I'LL MAKE YOU SO HIDEOUS FRANZ WILL NEVER TURN TO FACE YOU AGAIN. THAT'S MY GIFT TO YOU.
WHAT?

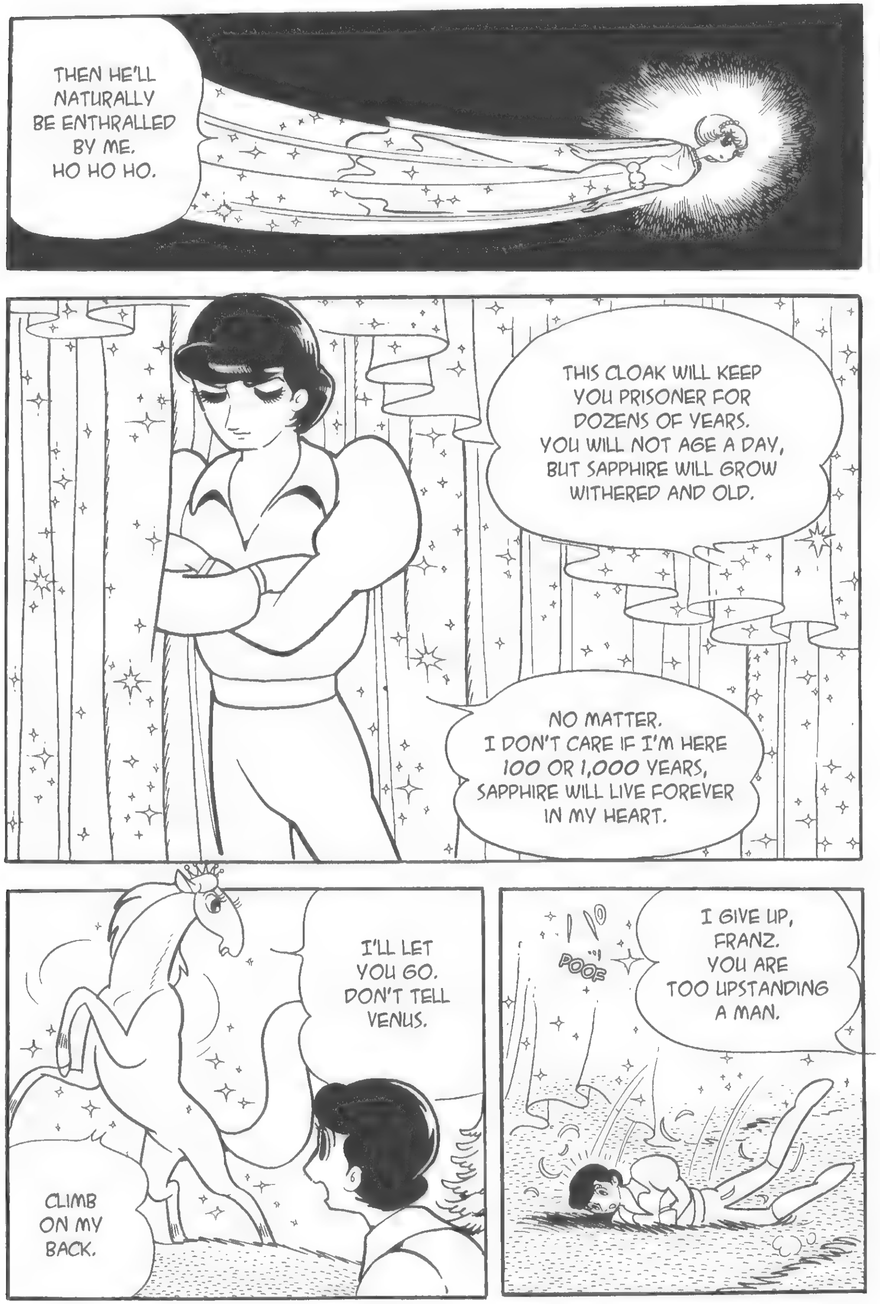

YOU DARE TO SIDELINE ME, THE GODDESS OF LOVE, AND CLAIM FRANZ FOR YOURSELF? HOW BRAZEN!
ACCEPT MY GIFT!
ARGH!
STOP, VENUS! I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE A GODDESS, I, TINK WON'T ALLOW YOU!

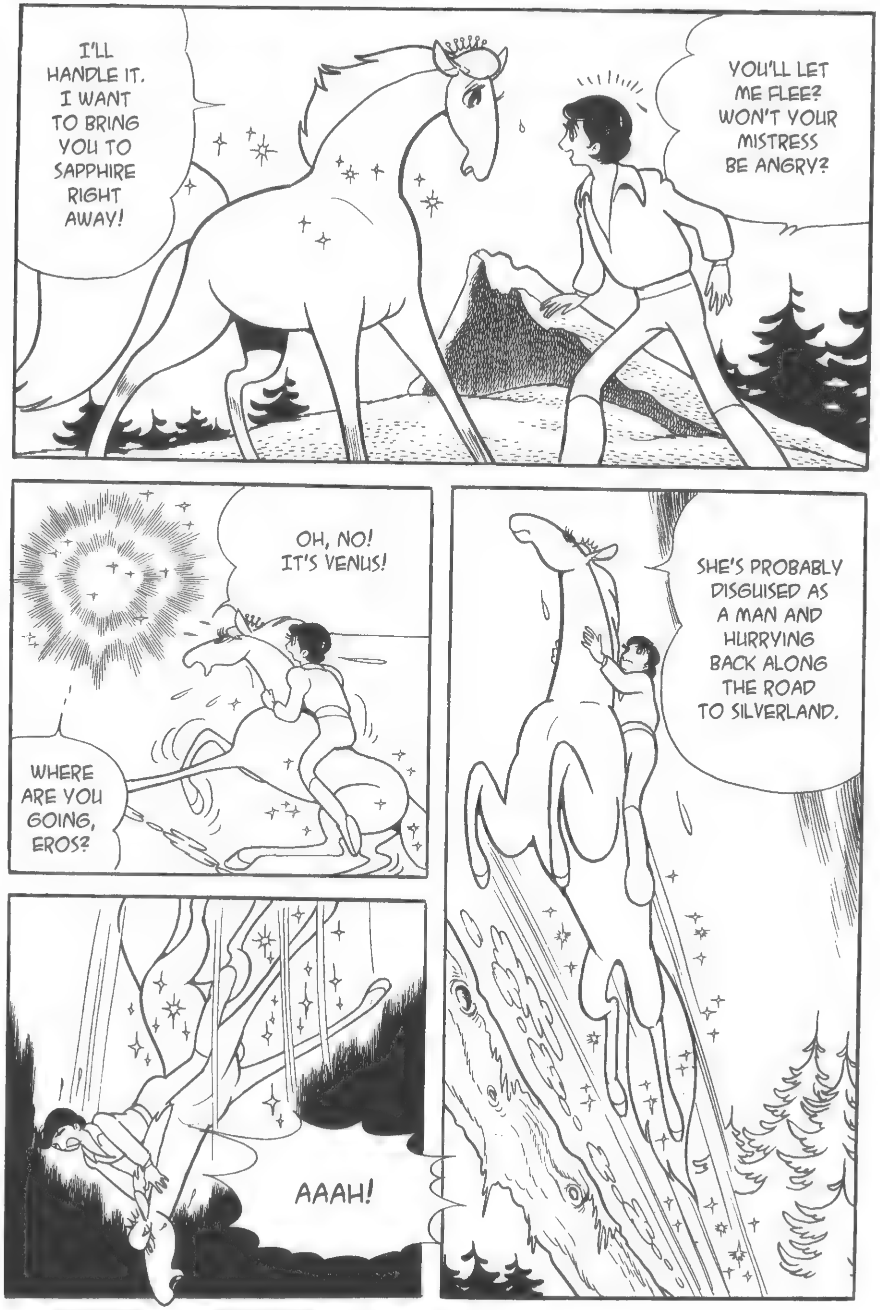

THE ANGEL TINK, YES?
YOU CAME TO EARTH ON ORDERS FROM FATHER, RIGHT? WANT A FLOWER?
DON'T YOU TEMPT ME WITH THAT!
OR SOME STARDUST?
HOW ABOUT A FLUTE? THIS ONE CALLS THE BIRDS OF THE MILKY WAY.
NO THANKS! WHY DID YOU MAKE SAPPHIRE UGLY?
OH, YOU SAW? I WAS JUST TEASING HER.
PLEASE TURN HER BACK TO THE WAY SHE WAS.
HMPH, MEDDLESOME LITTLE BRAT.

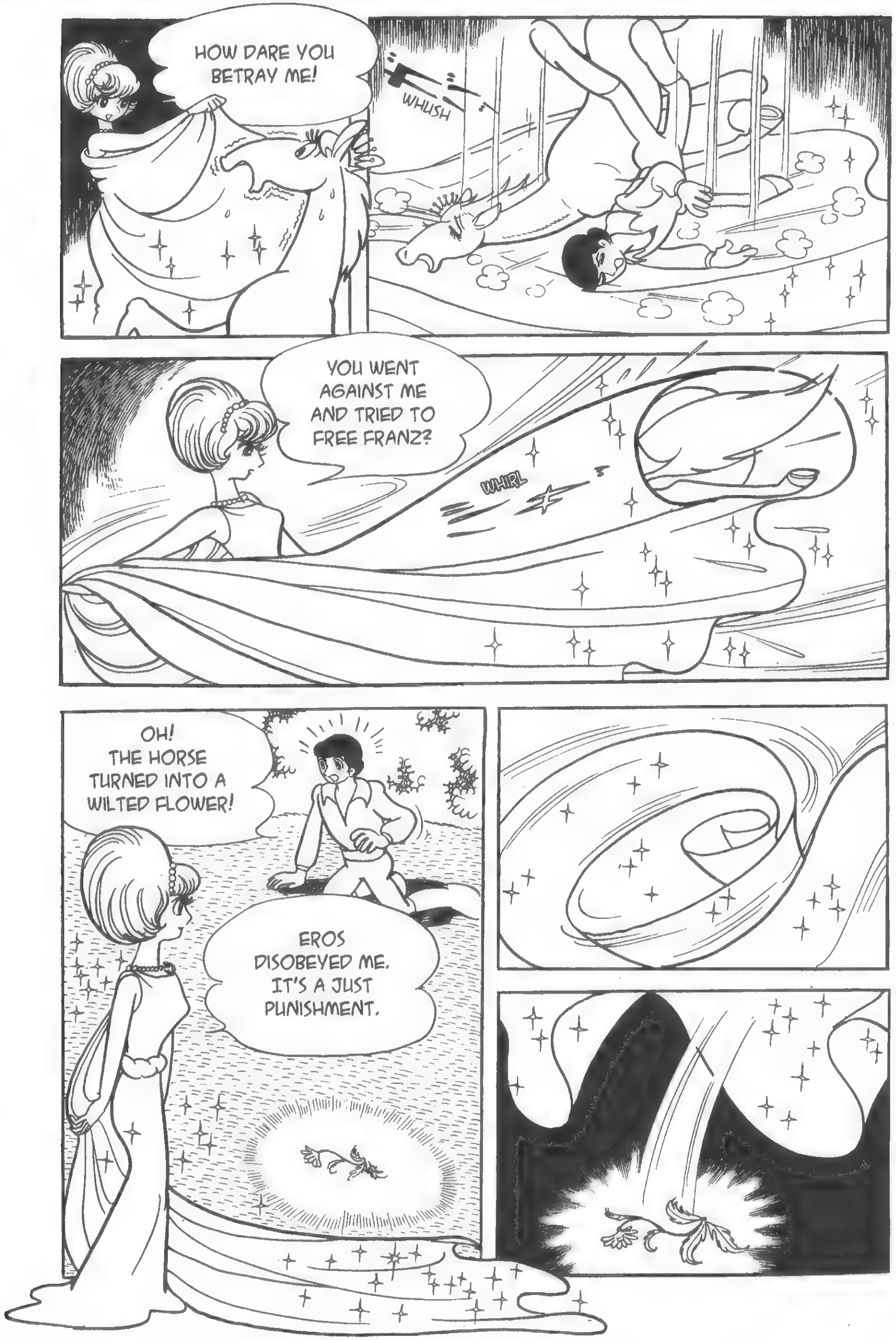

THERE, HOW'S THAT?
SWEAR YOU'LL NEVER LAY A FINGER ON SAPPHIRE AGAIN!
TINK, THE ONLY REASON SHE'S ALIVE IS BECAUSE OF THE FLOWER I GAVE HER. I CAN DO WITH HER AS I PLEASE.
I TOLD THE HEAVENLY FATHER EVERYTHING YOU DID. HE GOT REALLY, REALLY MAD.
HE SAID IF YOU KEEP BEING CAPRICIOUS AND MEAN HE'LL CALL YOU BACK TO HEAVEN AND PUNISH YOU.
YOU LIE. FATHER WOULD NEVER SCOLD ME SO.
NOT A LIE! I AM ANGRY!

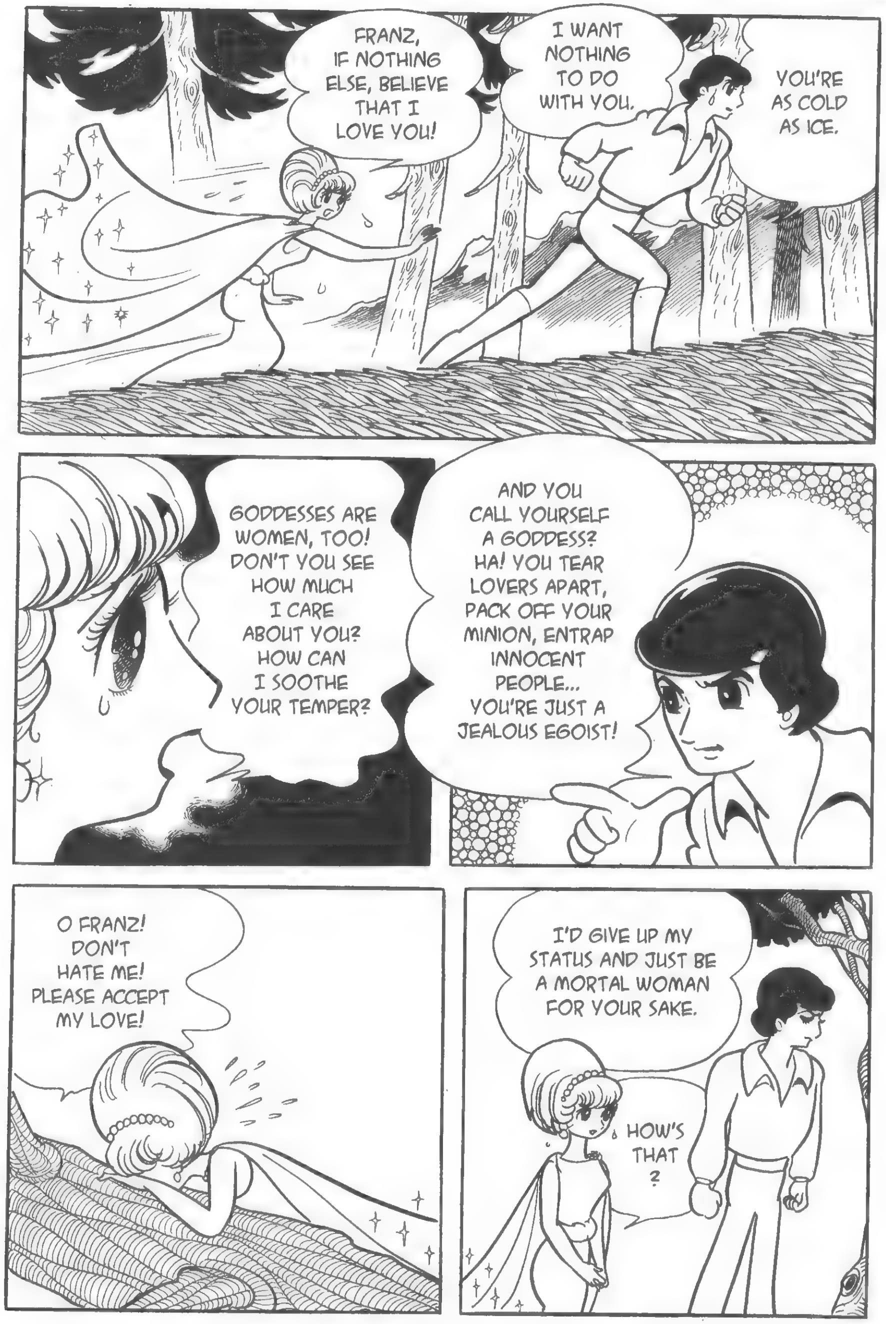

I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU REIGN OVER BEAUTY, LOVE AND LIFE,
AND THIS IS HOW YOU BEHAVE? BY TURNING PEOPLE UGLY?
SEE? YOU GOT SCOLDED. YOU SHOULDN'T TURN AGAINST YOUR FATHER.
OK, FINE!
SO YOU'VE HEARD, HAVE YOU? HOW NASTY.
I SEE I WAS WRONG. I LEAVE THAT WOMAN TO YOUR CARE.
GET HER BACK TO SILVERLAND SAFELY!

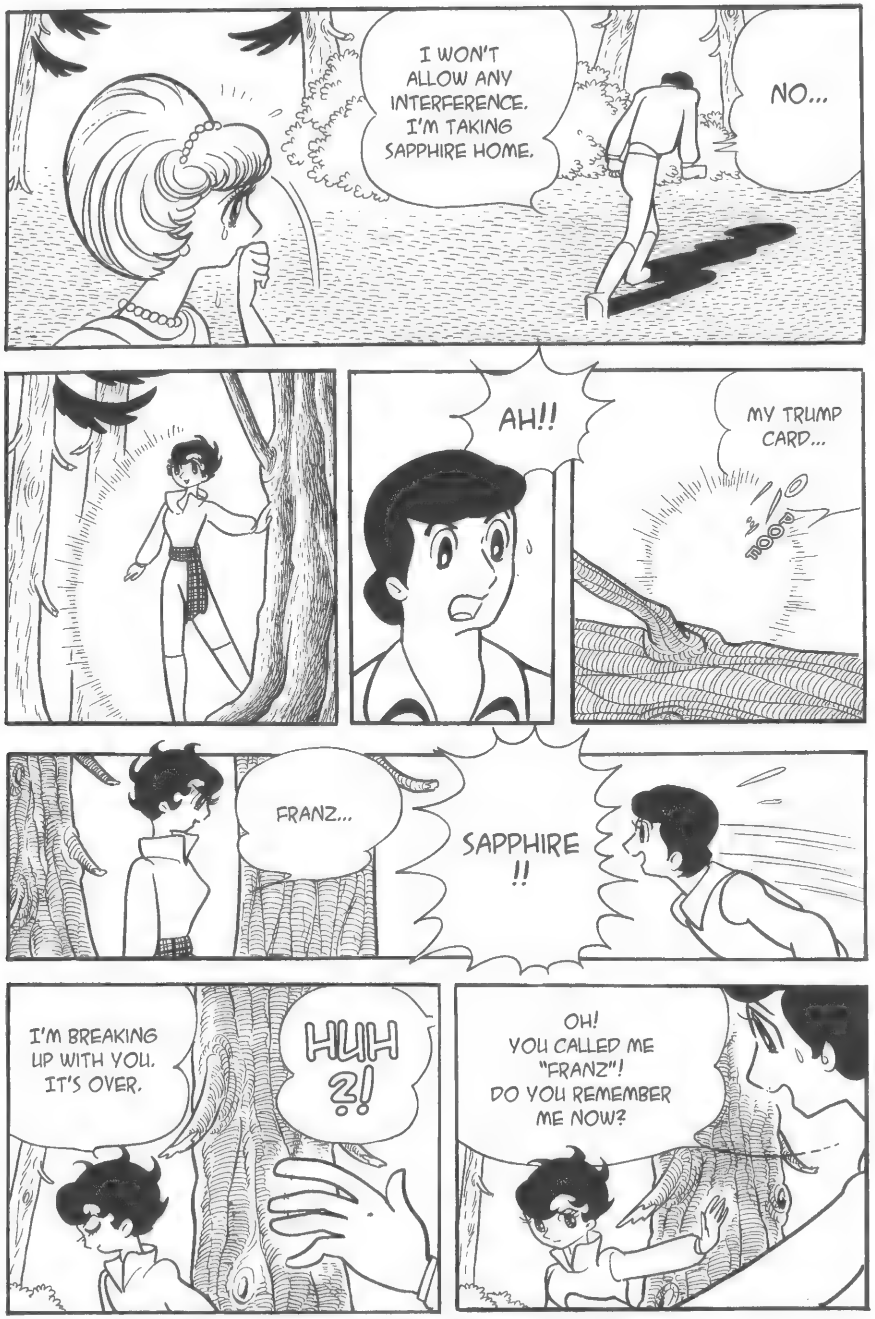

HEH. DO YOU REALLY THINK
I'LL JUST GIVE UP QUIETLY, SAPPHIRE?
I KNOW.
TO GET BACK TO SILVERLAND, THEY'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT RAVINE.
I'LL CAST A SPELL THERE, SO WHEN THEY PASS THROUGH,
SAPPHIRE WILL TRANSFORM INTO A PIG!
AS A PIG, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FACE FRANZ. HE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP ON FINDING HER.
HO HO. GREAT PLAN.

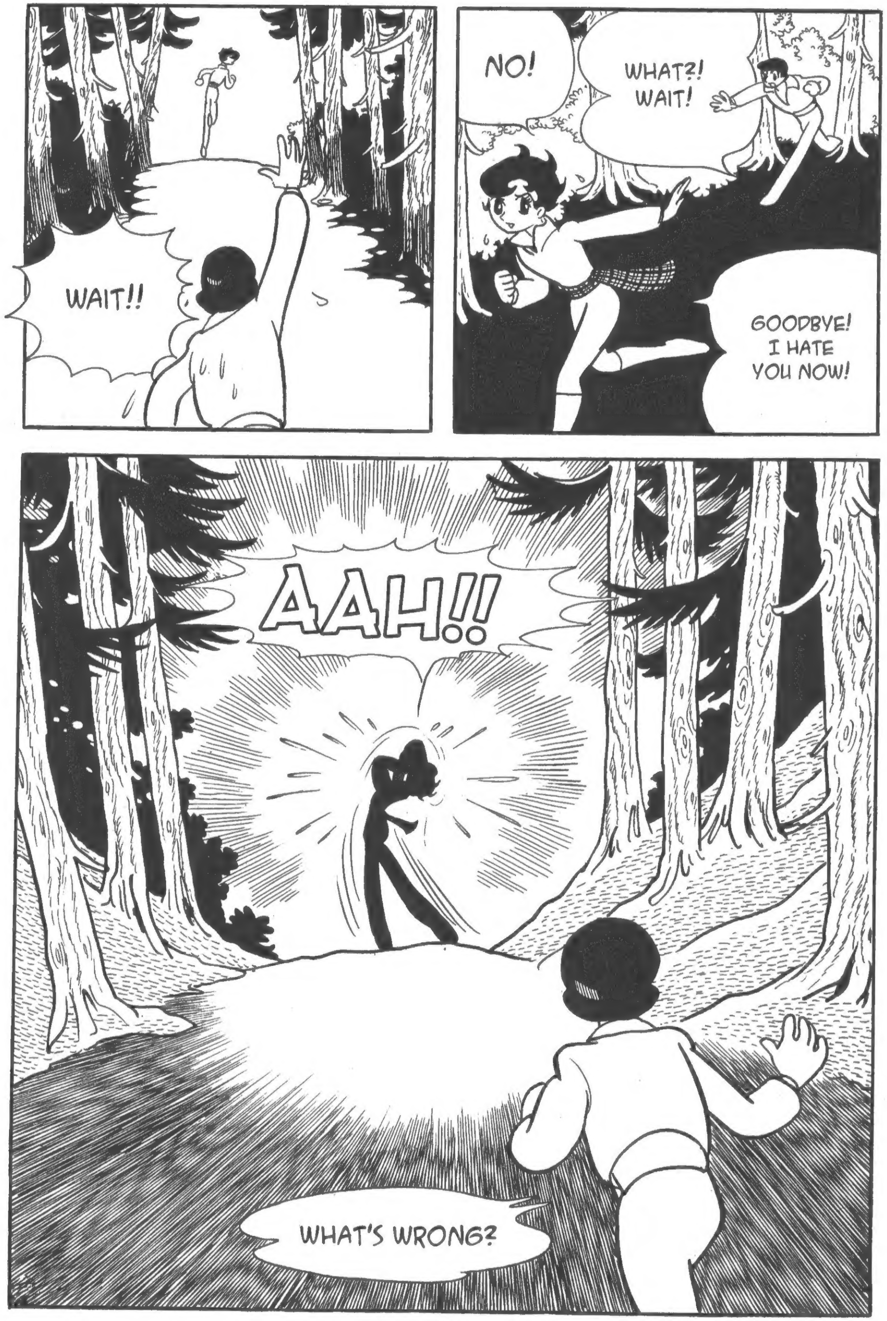

THEN HE'LL NATURALLY BE ENTHRALLED BY ME. HO HO HO.
THIS CLOAK WILL KEEP YOU PRISONER FOR DOZENS OF YEARS. YOU WILL NOT AGE A DAY, BUT SAPPHIRE WILL GROW WITHERED AND OLD.
NO MATTER. I DON'T CARE IF I'M HERE 100 OR 1,000 YEARS, SAPPHIRE WILL LIVE FOREVER IN MY HEART.
I GIVE UP, FRANZ. YOU ARE TOO UPSTANDING A MAN.
POOF
I'LL LET YOU GO. DON'T TELL VENUS.
CLIMB ON MY BACK.

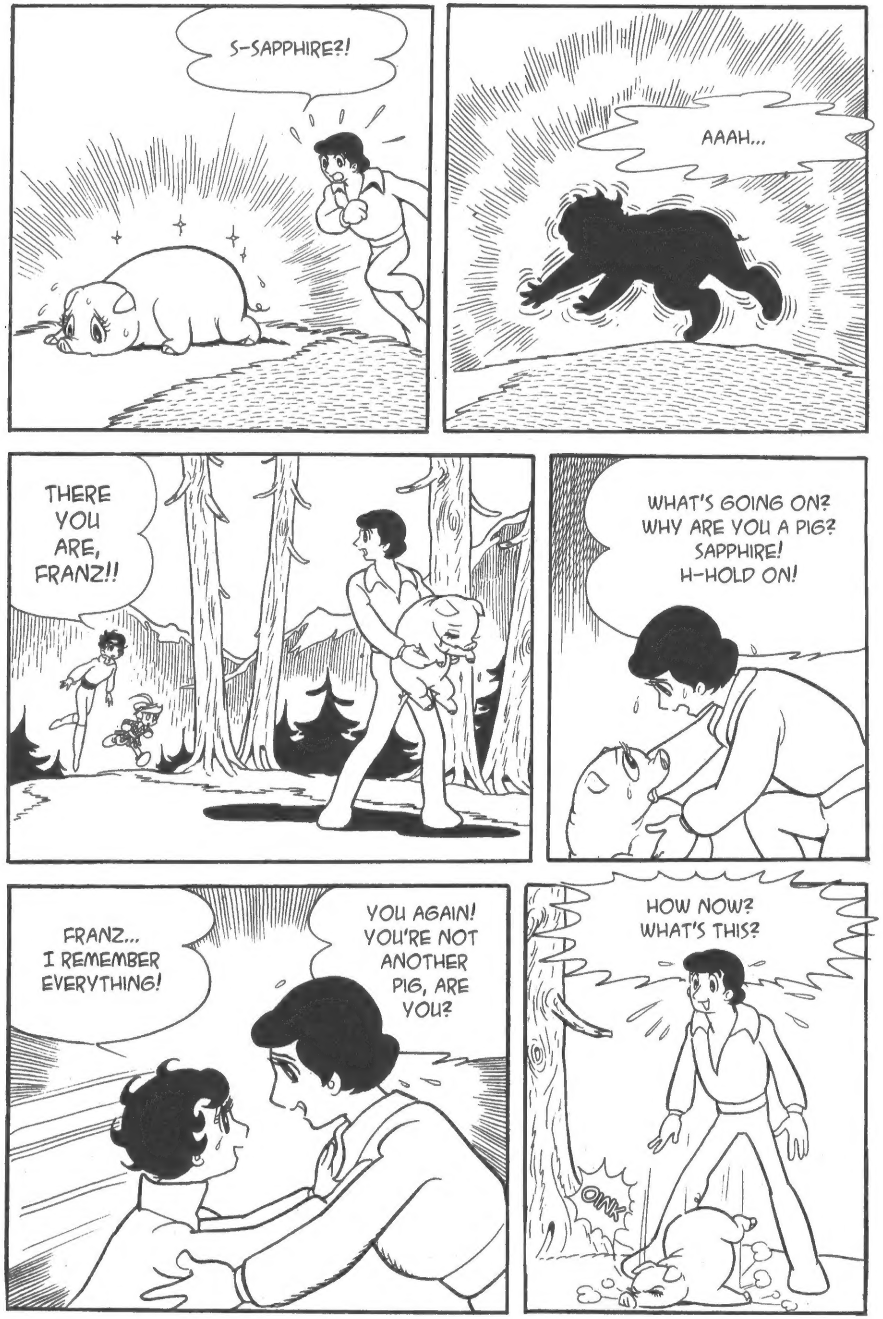

YOU'LL LET ME FLEE? WON'T YOUR MISTRESS BE ANGRY?
I'LL HANDLE IT. I WANT TO BRING YOU TO SAPPHIRE RIGHT AWAY!
SHE'S PROBABLY DISGUISED AS A MAN AND HURRYING BACK ALONG THE ROAD TO SILVERLAND.
OH, NO! IT'S VENUS!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, EROS?
AAAH!

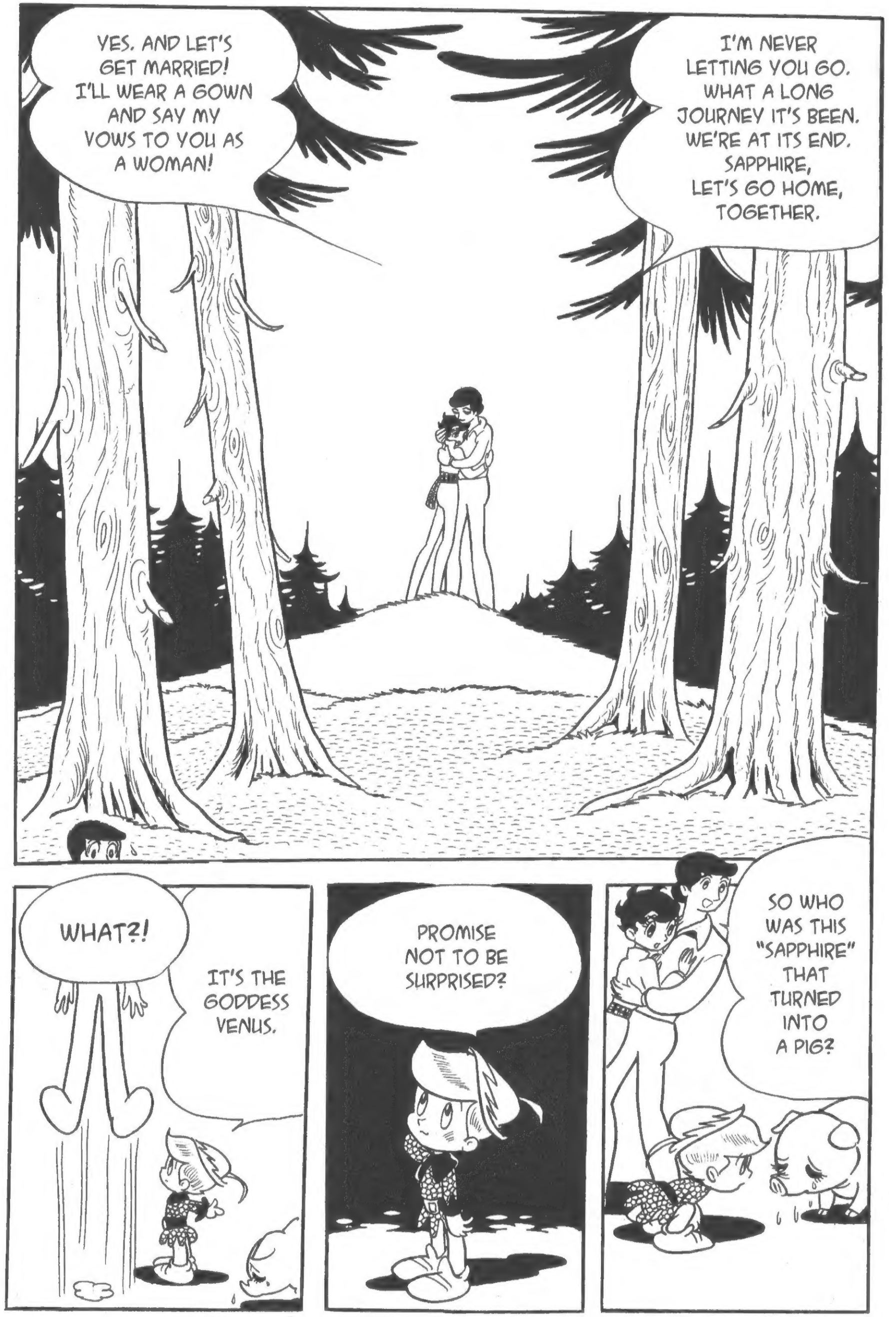

WHUSH
HOW DARE YOU BETRAY ME!
YOU WENT AGAINST ME AND TRIED TO FREE FRANZ?
WHIRL
OH! THE HORSE TURNED INTO A WILTED FLOWER!
EROS DISOBEYED ME. IT'S A JUST PUNISHMENT.

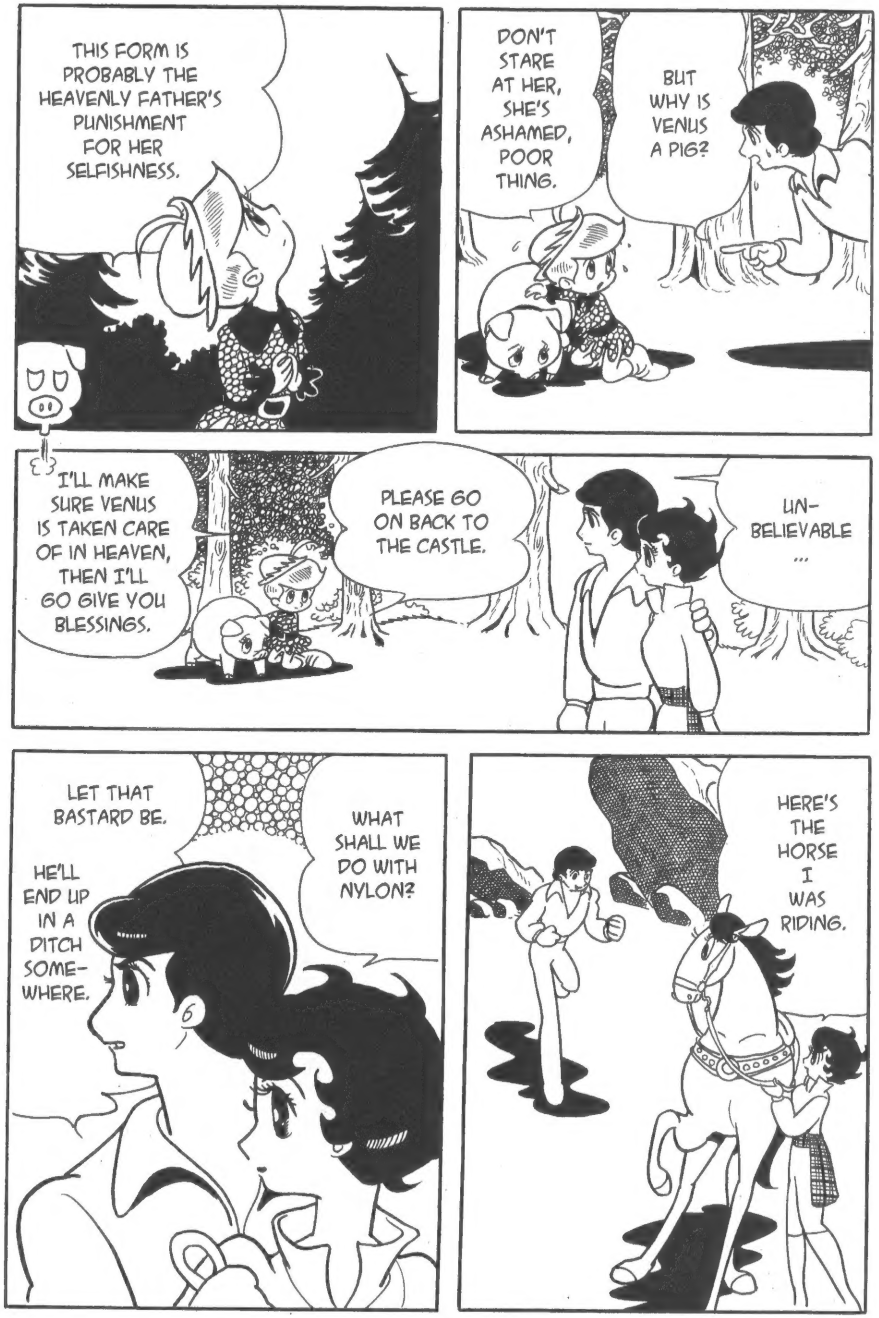

FRANZ, IF NOTHING ELSE, BELIEVE THAT I LOVE YOU!
I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU.
YOU'RE AS COLD AS ICE.
GODDESSES ARE WOMEN, TOO! DON'T YOU SEE HOW MUCH I CARE ABOUT YOU? HOW CAN I SOOTHE YOUR TEMPER?
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A GODDESS? HA! YOU TEAR LOVERS APART, PACK OFF YOUR MINION, ENTRAP INNOCENT PEOPLE... YOU'RE JUST A JEALOUS EGOIST!
O FRANZ! DON'T HATE ME! PLEASE ACCEPT MY LOVE!
I'D GIVE UP MY STATUS AND JUST BE A MORTAL WOMAN FOR YOUR SAKE.
HOW'S THAT?

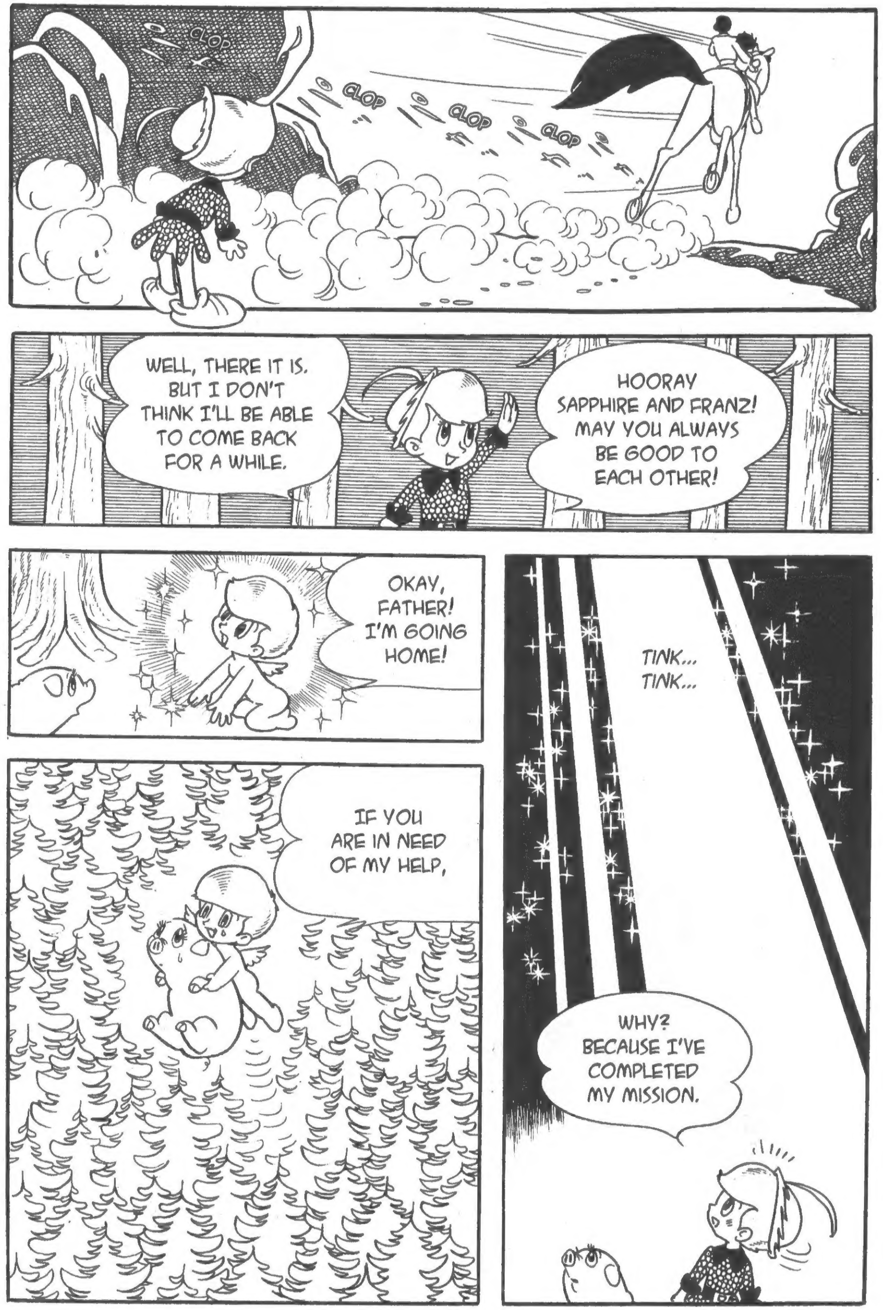

I WON'T ALLOW ANY INTERFERENCE. I'M TAKING SAPPHIRE HOME.
NO...
AH!!
MY TRUMP CARD...
POOF
FRANZ...
SAPPHIRE!!
I'M BREAKING UP WITH YOU. IT'S OVER.
HUH?!
OH! YOU CALLED ME "FRANZ"! DO YOU REMEMBER ME NOW?

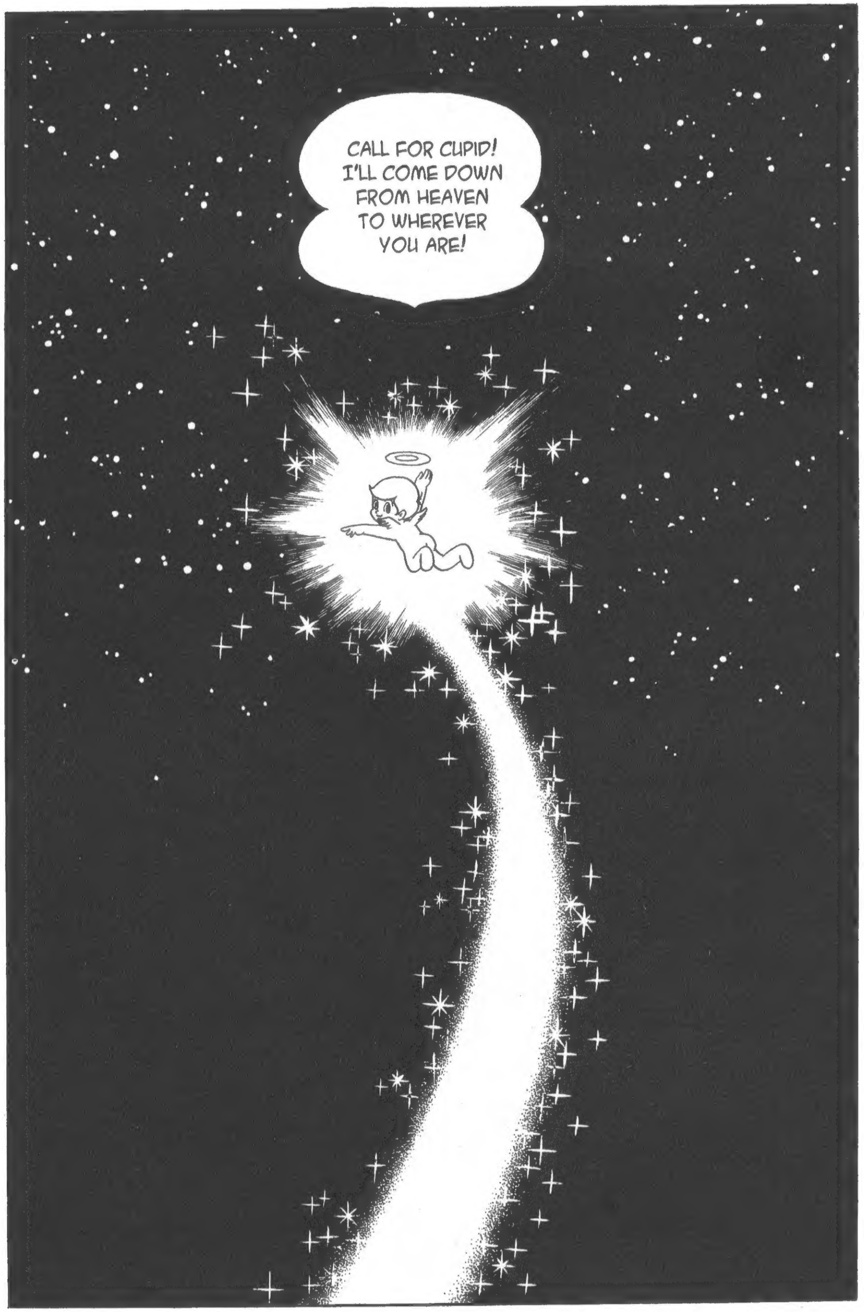

WHAT?! WAIT!
NO!
GOODBYE! I HATE YOU NOW!
WAIT!!
AAH!!
WHAT'S WRONG?

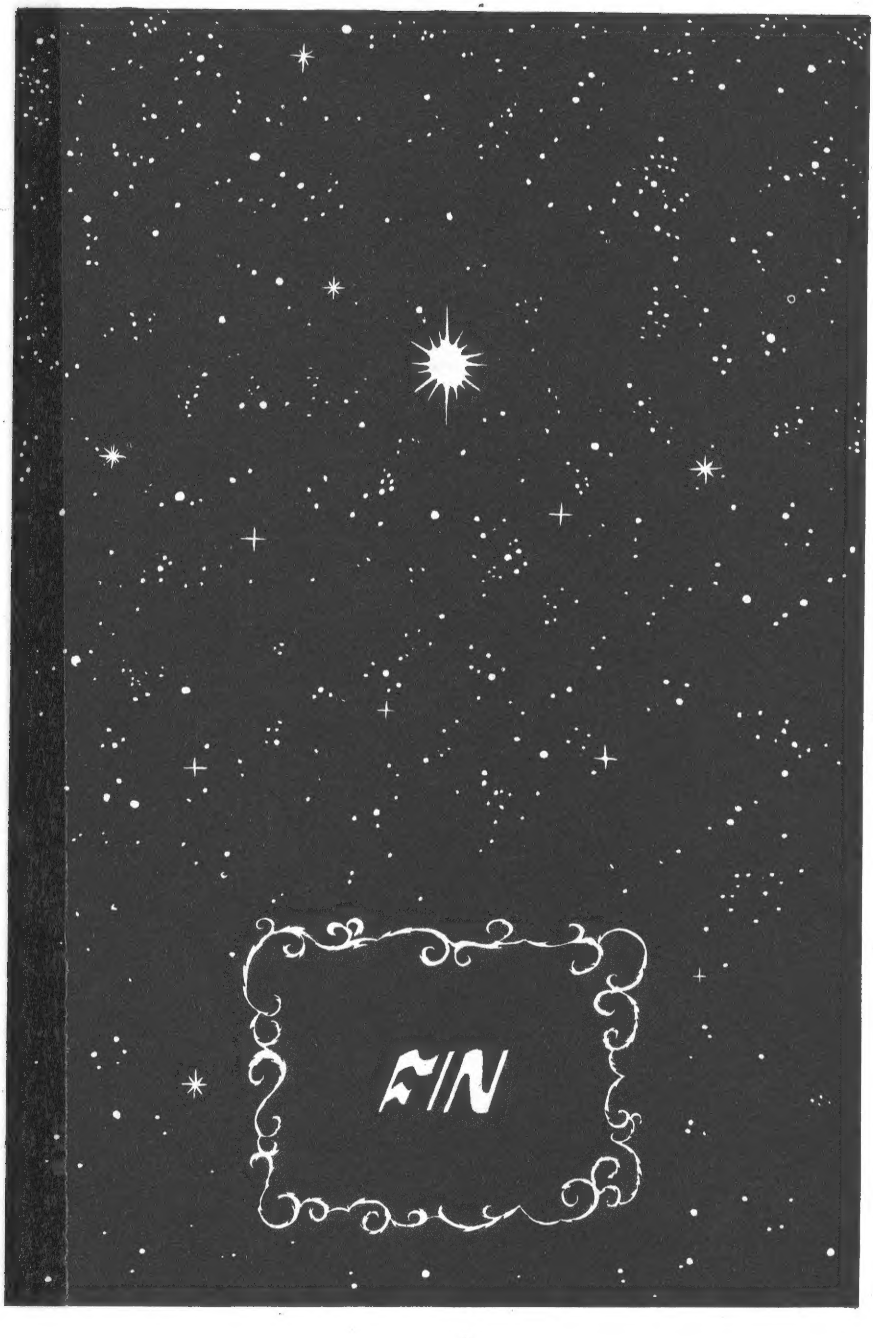

AAAH...
S-SAPPHIRE?!
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE YOU A PIG? SAPPHIRE! H-HOLD ON!
THERE YOU ARE, FRANZ!!
HOW NOW? WHAT'S THIS?
OINK
YOU AGAIN! YOU'RE NOT ANOTHER PIG, ARE YOU?
FRANZ... I REMEMBER EVERYTHING!


I'M NEVER LETTING YOU GO. WHAT A LONG JOURNEY IT'S BEEN. WE'RE AT ITS END. SAPPHIRE, LET'S GO HOME, TOGETHER.
YES. AND LET'S GET MARRIED! I'LL WEAR A GOWN AND SAY MY VOWS TO YOU AS A WOMAN!
SO WHO WAS THIS "SAPPHIRE" THAT TURNED INTO A PIG?
PROMISE NOT TO BE SURPRISED?
IT'S THE GODDESS VENUS.
WHAT?!


BUT WHY IS VENUS A PIG?
DON'T STARE AT HER, SHE'S ASHAMED, POOR THING.
THIS FORM IS PROBABLY THE HEAVENLY FATHER'S PUNISHMENT FOR HER SELFISHNESS.
UN-BELIEVABLE...
PLEASE GO ON BACK TO THE CASTLE.
I'LL MAKE SURE VENUS IS TAKEN CARE OF IN HEAVEN, THEN I'LL GO GIVE YOU BLESSINGS.
HERE'S THE HORSE I WAS RIDING.
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH NYLON?
LET THAT BASTARD BE.
HE'LL END UP IN A DITCH SOMEWHERE.


CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
HOORAY SAPPHIRE AND FRANZ! MAY YOU ALWAYS BE GOOD TO EACH OTHER!
WELL, THERE IT IS. BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO COME BACK FOR A WHILE.
TINK... TINK...
WHY? BECAUSE I'VE COMPLETED MY MISSION.
OKAY, FATHER! I'M GOING HOME!
IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF MY HELP,


CALL FOR CUPID! I'LL COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN TO WHEREVER YOU ARE!


FIN